ERA4Health Partnership

Co-funded by the European Union

Call for proposals 2026 – JTC8

Call Text

Understanding and Preventing Overweight and Obesity-PREVENT-OO

Mechanisms of their onset and progression, neglected determinants and novel strategies for critical transitional periods in life

DEADLINES

21 January, 2026 (12:00, CET) - SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSALS

11 June 2026 (12:00, CEST) - SUBMISSION OF INVITED FULL-PROPOSALS

Link to electronic proposal submission

https://ptoutline.eu/app/ERA4HEALTHPREVENT-OO

For further information, please visit us on the website: https://era4health.eu/

or contact the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS):

The French National Research Agency

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Content

Definitions

Application
The call application is composed of the pre-proposal or the full proposal, on the first or second stage respectively, and the information filled on the PT-outline submission platform.

Call Steering Committee
Committee composed of one representant of each funding organisation participating in the call with funds. The CSC is responsible for all decision taking in the call.

Collaborator
Institution that do not request funds from any of the participating funding organisations; they are self-funded institution. See section of the call text "Application – Size of the consortium" for details about the maximum number of collaborators allowed per consortium and participation conditions.

Consortium
Group of partners and collaborator(s) submitting a proposal together to the call. See section of the call text "Application - Eligibility Criteria" for details about the consortium composition. The consortium must be represented by a coordinator chosen within the different partners.

Coordinator
Institution who takes primary responsibility for the design conduct and reporting of the study and who is responsible for the overall project coordination.

Partner
Institution eligible for requesting funding from one of the funding organisations participating to the call.

Principal investigator (PI)
Each institution participating to a consortium is represented by a single Principal Investigator.

PT-Outline
Submission platform. All applications must be submitted on the submission platform. The coordinator is responsible for filling the application on PT-Outline. It is advised to start completing the application on the platform early as a lot of information about the partners must be entered. On the last section, the coordinator will be asked to upload the pre-filled proposal template (PDF format).

Pre/ Full proposal template
Template in word format that the applicants must follow exactly (no extra documents such as supporting letters or extra CV, respect of the paragraph maximum length, etc). The pre-proposal template is available on the call page of the ERA4Health website. The full proposal template will be sent directly to the consortium invited to the second step of the call.

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)
It is the process of engaging with the social, political, environmental or ethical complexities of research and innovation. Further information can be found in ERA4Health's Guidelines for RRI.

Widening concept

Between the two steps of the call, each consortium invited to the second stage of the call and that has not reached the maximum number of partners yet, will have the opportunity of adding one new partner from underrepresented countries (name of countries will be communicated by the JCS concomitantly with the results of the first step of the call). It is mandatory for the new partner to contact its national funding organizations prior to submission of the full proposal to confirm their eligibility for funding.

Acronyms

ARRIVE Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments

CA Consortium Agreement

CSC Call Steering Committee

DMP Data Management Plan

EC European Commission

ECN Early Career Network

ECS Early Career Scientist

FAIR Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability

GDPR General Data Protection Regulation

IP Intellectual Property

JCS Joint Call Secretariat

JTC Joint Transnational Call

NGO non-governmental organisation

ORE Open Research Europe

PI Principal Investigator

PRP Peer Review Panel

RRI Responsible Research and Innovation

Aim and ambition of ERA4Health

The Partnership "Fostering a European Research Area for Health" (ERA4Health) aims at establishing a flexible and effective coordination between funding organisations in the European Research Area (ERA) for Health and Well-being. This Partnership brings the opportunity to increase European transnational collaborative research funding by creating a funding body for joint programming in priority areas addressing European Public Health Needs.

The general objective of ERA4Health is to reach an effective joint approach and generate knowledge and products (e.g. preventive guidelines, medical protocols) in the identified research areas as outlined in ERA4health Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)[1]. To achieve this, a comprehensive network has been created which aims at strengthening and expanding the existing conducive ecosystem.

In this light, ERA4Health gathers public funders of health research in the European Research Area including the European Commission that jointly identify and implement a common funding strategy in priority areas to advance health research and develop innovation.

ERA4Health has 4 specific objectives:

- SO1. Support relevant medical research including clinical fields and intervention areas (prevention, diagnosis, treatment),
- SO2. Improve the utilisation of existing health technologies in clinical practice,
- SO3. Build capacity, in particular in conducting IICSs at European scale,
- SO4. Implement and advance the practice of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) across the breadth of the programme.

[1] https://era4health.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ec_rtd_he-partnerships-era-for-health-1.pdf

Rationale

In 2022, according to the WHO[2], 60% of the population from the WHO European regions was affected by overweight and obesity. Obesity has been identified as a serious public health challenge and as a major determinant of disability and death for decades. Indeed, overweight and obesity increase the incidence of other non-communicable diseases such as, for example, diabetes, cancer, and respiratory or cardiovascular diseases.
Although the knowledge and treatment of overweight and obesity has been improved in the recent years, new research insights is still needed to understand biological mechanisms behind new developments or observations in the context of overweight and obesity, such as the mechanisms of the chrononutrition or the interaction of determining factors.

The risk of developing other diseases/disorders is higher for overweight and obese people and they are prone to more severe complications. A better understanding of the interplay between the biological mechanisms affected in overweight or obesity conditions and the ones affected in other diseases/disorders is necessary. Additionally, a weaker response to therapies against other diseases has been observed in the obese population. Beyond inadequate drug dosage, some specific biological mechanisms leading to weak therapy responses have been identified, such as the modulator role of estrogen receptor in breast cancer therapy. Nonetheless, mechanisms involved in many other diseases remain unknown. A better understanding of the mechanisms involved in treatment resistance is essential for tailoring the treatment to the obese population.

Weight gain has been linked with critical transitional period of life, so it is particularly important to understand the behaviour of people by studying the determinants of weight gain during those key changes in life. These transitional periods can be due to biological changes such as post-partum, menopause and andropause, or to socio- environmental changes such as period during and after pregnancies, diagnosis of a chronic disease, disease recovery or retirement. It is essential to conduct research that supports policymakers in improving the broad implementation of new evidence-based health policies and using more effective solutions for health promotion and disease prevention in the long term.

In face of the obesity epidemic, innovative and effective preventive and public health strategies should be identified and implemented to encourage healthier lifestyles and behaviours among citizens, including patients. The strategies should be holistic i.e. taking in consideration the different determinants of obesity and living environment of the person (e.g. access to community resources, physical activity opportunities and nutritional support), considering its psychological status, and socio-economic environment.

With this call, ERA4health enables scientists in different countries to build a valuable collaboration on common interdisciplinary research projects based on complementarities and sharing of expertise in the field of the obesity with a clear translational research approach. In-depth, two-way engagement with different actors from academia, healthcare settings and providers, industry, as well as patients' organizations will help to develop effective research strategies. This call promotes cooperation at transnational level and will open the way for new knowledge and new prevention strategies for Europeans and beyond.

Aim of the call

Project proposals should address multidisciplinary research. The applications must cover **only one** of the two following topics and address at least one of the two specified subtopics (subtopic 1a and/or

[2] https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/353747/9789289057738-eng.pdf?sequence=1

1b for topic 1 and subtopic 2a and/or 2b for topic 2); both topics and subtopics are of equal relevance for this call:

1. **Understanding causes of obesity and overweight and its complications with mechanistic research**

> **1a.** to investigate biological mechanisms, including chronobiological, genetic and/or epigenetic mechanisms, underlying the onset and progression of overweight and obesity, and related diseases. Secondary factors with potential influence on the biological mechanisms such as the living environment, lifestyle or psychological status should also be considered where relevant.
>
> **1b.** to investigate how overweight and obesity contribute to the development of related clinical complications and/or affect the mechanism of action of therapeutics against other diseases/disorders.

2. **Prevention and public health strategies for critical transitional periods of life**

Both subtopics 2a. and 2b. should be addressed for critical transitional periods of life only. The choice of the critical transitional periods of life to be studied must be clearly justified in the proposal. It should be due to biological changes (e.g. postpartum, menopause, andropause), or socio-environmental changes (e.g. period in between pregnancies, diagnosis of a chronic disease, recovering from disease, retirement etc.).

> **2a.** to understand and address neglected determinants, including their interdependency, in the onset and the progression of overweight and obesity in transitional periods of life.
>
> **2b.** to develop novel tools or preventive strategies that can be implemented against the onset and the progression of overweight and obesity in transitional periods of life taking into consideration physiological, pathophysiological, psychological behavioural influences and/or socioeconomic status of the citizens/patients. Importantly, the proposal should present the assessment of the economic impact of the proposed tools or strategies on the healthcare system, and issue orientations that will help policymakers to define new regulations and guidelines to prevent overweight and obesity.

Beyond the research topics the following points should be considered for topics 1 and 2, including approaches to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI):

- Proposals must clearly demonstrate the potential health impact(s) as well as the added-value of transnational collaboration (e.g. sharing of expertise and resources (models, databases...), harmonisation of data, access to innovative technologies, etc..) by emphasising the unique contribution of each partner.
- Proposals should clearly promote translational research and justify the novelty of the proposed research.
- Where relevant, cellular, 3D and patients' models should be preferred to animal models. The use of animal models must be justified[3].

[3] https://www.eara.eu/animal-research-law

- Applicants should make use of existing biobanks and existing cohorts, if applicable. Otherwise, it should be explained why existing biobanks/ cohorts are not used.
- The involvement of relevant stakeholders (e.g. political representatives (local/regional/national), citizens and/or patients' representatives, local communities, schools, municipalities, local/ national NGOs, consumer organisations) in the project is strongly recommended from the conception stage to the implementation and the dissemination. They can participate as partners (if eligible for funding by a national/regional funding organisation), as collaborators (participation with own budget) or as part of an or as advisory board.
- Applicants should consider potential moderators of effects such as age, sex, gender and ethnic or other relevant demographic or socioeconomic features/differences when appropriate for the topic of the proposal.
- The consortia are required to consider the gender balance in the composition of the consortia and to balance the responsibilities between genders.
- Early Career Scientists (Master, PhD and post-docs) are encouraged to participate in the consortium.

<u>The following point should be considered for topic 2:</u>

- Proposals must clearly demonstrate the economic impacts

<u>Exclusion for topic 1 and 2:</u>

- Clinicals studies phase 3 and 4 are excluded in this call.
- Studies solely addressing target groups aged from 12 to 25 years are excluded in this call.
- Topics excluded form Horizon Europe: research which aims at human cloning for reproductive purposes, modifying the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such modifications heritable, creating human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer, or leading to the destruction of human embryos, lead to the destruction of human embryos (for example, for obtaining stem cells.

Expected Impact

The outcomes of the funded projects will contribute to reducing the burden of overweight and obesity in Europe by a better understanding of yet understudied mechanisms underlying overweight and obesity which will allow to tailor new preventive and therapeutic strategies.

The outcomes will support evidence-based decision-making processes to shift the paradigm of overweight and obesity management from "reactive" to "proactive" approach. This will be achieved by improving accuracy of early detection through the identification of key determinants and development of effective public policies and health initiatives that support targeted interventions, ultimately enhancing understanding of the economic burden of the disease and of its prevention.

General conditions for application

The initial duration of the projects will be 36 months.

Proposals **must clearly demonstrate the added-value of transnational collaboration** i.e. sharing of resources (models, registries, diagnosis, etc.), harmonisation of data, sharing of specific know-how and/or innovative technologies.

Proposals should follow the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). All consortia should demonstrate a commitment to investigating and addressing social, ethical, political, environmental or cultural dimensions of the proposed research. The proposal template further elaborates on this and how RRI dimensions can be approached (see our guidelines p25-30).

Research supported by ERA4Health must respect fundamental ethical principles. Applicants have to fill an ethical grid and describe any potential ethical aspects of the work to be carried out, and how the project will fulfil applicable requirements in institutional, national and European Union legislation (including the ethical standards and guidelines of Horizon 2020/Europe[4]).

The individual project partners of the joint applications should be complementary, and the proposed work should contain novel, innovative and ambitious ideas with a high application potential for the end-users and/or with a high implementation potential to benefit of end-users/patients/citizens.

Furthermore, additional aspects need to be considered in the application:

- If appropriate: the design of the study (sample collection, statistical power, interpretation, relevant models for hypothesis validation) must be well justified and should be part of the proposal.
- For small-scale clinical studies up to phase 2: strategies for recruitment, retention, assessment, and analysis must be included. The study design and objectives should take into consideration the population that would be needed to reach the objective of the study. Data supporting the recruitment numbers is recommended.
- In case of an exploratory animal/ small-scale clinical study up to phase 2, a detailed description is required as part of the full proposal application form (requirements are included in the Guidelines for Pre-clinical and small-scale clinical studies up to phase 2). The review panel will scrutinise this information as part of the formal evaluation criteria (1-Excellence) of full proposals. Assistance for provision of the information on experimental design can be found in the general ARRIVE guidelines[5].

Participating countries and respective funding organisations

The following participating funding organisations have agreed to fund this call for transnational research projects:

Countries	Funding organisations	Acronym	Contribution €
Belgium	Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS	F.R.S.- FNRS	300 000
Belgium	The Research Foundation - Flanders	FWO	700 000

[4] https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm
[5] https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.1000412&type=printable

Egypt	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology	ASRT	300 000
Estonia	The Estonian Research Council	ETAG	300 000
France	French Research Funding Agency	ANR	2 500 000
Germany	Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space represented by DLR Project Management Agency	BMFTR/DLR	2 000 000
Greece	General Secretariat for Research and Innovation	GSRI	500 000
Hungary	National Research, Development and Innovation Office	NKFIH	200 000
Israel	Ministry of Health	CSO-MOH	340 000
Italy	Ministry of Health	IT MOH	1 000 000
Latvia	Latvian Council of Science	LCS	600 000
Lithuania	Research Council of Lithuania	LMT	300 000
Norway	Research Council Research	RCN	600 000
Poland	National Centre for Research and Development	NCBR	1 250 000
Portugal	Foundation for Science and Technology	FCT	500 000
Romania	Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding	UEFISCDI	1 000 000
Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Sciences	SAS	240 000
Slovakia	Centrum vedecko technickych informacii slovenskej republiky cvtisr	SCSTI	800 000
Spain	State Research Agency	AEI	800 000
Spain	Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia	CSCJA	250 000
Spain	Fundación Para El Fomento En Asturias De La Investigación Científica Y Tecnología/ Agencia de Ciencia, Competitividad Empresarial e Innovación Asturiana	FICYT/ SEKUENS	150 000
Spain	Institute of Health Carlos III	ISCIII	600 000
Taïwan	National Science and Technology Council	NSTC	810 000
The Netherlands	Dutch Research Council	NWO	2 500 000
Türkiye	The scientific and technological research council of Türkiye	TUBITAK	600 000

Table 1: Participating funding organisations

Project partners will be funded by their respective national/regional funding organisations. Eligible costs and funding rules vary between the different funding organisations (see Annex I).

Support for Early Career Researchers

All project principal investigators (PIs; i.e. representatives of the coordinators and partners) are asked to encourage the Early Career Researcher(s) (ECR) who will be involved in the research projects to actively engage in the ERA4Health Early Career Network (ECN). The aim of the ECN is to foster the interaction, capacity and growth of ECR involved in ERA4Health-funded projects. Different networking, training and capacity building activities dedicated to ECR will be organised and implemented during the runtime of the projects.

To facilitate participation of the ECR in the ECN, the coordinators and PIs should (I) include travel costs for the project's ECR dedicated to the ECN activities in the proposal and (II) allow the ECR to dedicate a small amount of their working time to the ECN. In addition, the research consortia are invited to

include training activities for Early Career Researcher into their proposals. Examples of training activities are mobility and lab visits of ECR between partners of the consortium or implementation of summer school(s).

Application

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to the categories A, B, C, or D described below. But the eligibility of the applicants depends on the national/regional regulations of the funding organisations participating to the call. Certain categories may not be eligible for funding by a specific funding organisation, please see Annex I and the guidelines for participants.

The four categories are:

- **A. Academia –** research teams working in public and private universities, other higher education institutions or research institutes.
- **B. Clinical/public health sector –** research teams working in hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations, including primary health care.
- **C. Enterprises –** private companies of all sizes involved in health research and innovation.
- and **D. Operational stakeholders –** e.g. patient advocacy organisations, care providers, municipalities and local policy makers, local/national NGOs. In line with the concept of RRI, operational stakeholders should be in a position to provide useful knowledge to the consortium, ensure the consortium's research is useful and translatable to their (or other) organisational contexts, and/or influence decision making or create change within their organisations. Operational stakeholders should be engaged in the research process from conception of the study to dissemination.

The number of participants and their research contribution should be appropriate for the aims of the transnational research project and be reasonably balanced in terms of international participation. Each transnational collaborative project should represent the critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific goals and should clearly demonstrate an added value from working together. It is important to integrate partners from the category D in line with the aims of the proposal, especially for topic 2.
A partner search tool, called PartFinder, is available on the ERA4Health website[6] to help finding partners (filter by choosing the call name "ERA4Health JTC8 PREVENT-OO").

SIZE OF THE CONSORTIUM

The following conditions apply to the composition of the transnational consortia:

- A minimum of 3 (three) eligible and a maximum of 5 (five) eligible partners from at least 3 (three) different countries participating in the call. In addition, at least 2 (two) eligible partners must be from different **EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries** participating in the call. The countries that are participating to the call and are not EU member states or Horizon Europe associated countries are Taiwan and Egypt.

[6] https://era4health.eu/partner-search/

- The maximum number of e**ligible partners** can be **increased up to 6 (six) or 7 (seven)** if they i**nclude 1 (one) or 2 (two) eligible partners**, respectively, **from** the following countries: **Estonia**, **Slovakia** (applicant eligible to SAS or SCSTI) and **Taiwan**.
- **No more than 2 (two) eligible partners from the same country participating** in the call will be accepted within one consortium.
- **A maximum of 2 (two) collaborators per consortium.** Collaborators are self-funded institutions: i.e. that do not request funds to any of the participating funding organisations (i.e. institutions from non-funding countries or institutions which are not fundable according to national/regional regulations of the participating funding organisations). The following conditions apply for collaborators:
    - Clear added value for the research project, this should be demonstrated in the proposal.
    - Secure own funding for participation with clear evidence in the proposal that this is already in place.
    - A letter of commitment of the collaborator(s) needs to be included as an annex to the pre-proposal/ full proposal.
    - A collaborator cannot be work package leader.

  Through the **Access2 Partnerships (A2P) Scheme**, Malta-based collaborators, and only collaborators not partners, may be eligible for up to **€300,000** by the **Funding Agency Xjenza Malta** to support their involvement in a successfully funded project, subject to a successful national application 15 working days before the pre-proposal's deadline (More information can be found here).

Total number of partners requesting funding (eligible partners)	**3-5**	**6**	**7**
Eligible partners from underrepresented countries	No restriction	At least 1	At least 2
Maximum number of collaborators	2	2	2

Table 3: Possible composition of a research consortium

Each project consortium must nominate **a project coordinator** from the participating principal investigators (NOT a collaborator). The project coordinator will represent the consortium externally and will act as contact person for the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS). The coordinator will be responsible during the entire process for the internal scientific coordination – management, overseeing IPR issues, reporting, and communication with the JCS.

Each principal investigator can submit either 1 (**one) proposal as project coordinator or up to 2 (two) proposals as simple partner** (i.e. the coordinator of a proposal cannot be partner in another proposal). Please note that this rule may be subject to national/regional regulations. Applicants are consequently strongly encouraged to contact their national/regional contact points to check their national/regional eligibility rules before submission (see Annex I).

Financial and legal modalities

Project partners will be funded by their relevant national/regional funding organisations. Therefore, eligible costs, funding rules and the type of studies allowed will vary between the respective funding organisations (see Annex I). Due to these differences, **it is highly recommended that each project partner defines its own budget in accordance with the funding rules of its own country/region.**

For information on the specific funding rules and eligibility criteria of the national/regional funding organisation:

- Carefully read Annex I and the national/regional announcements of the call
- In addition, **each applicant is strongly advised to reach out to their relevant funding organisation contact person before applying;** please note that for some countries/regions it might be mandatory.

Please note that if a partner requesting funding is found to be non-eligible at any step of the process by one of the funding organisations, the entire proposal could be rejected without further review.

Submission of joint proposals

There will be a two-step submission and evaluation procedure for joint applications, i.e. pre-proposals and full proposals, and the full proposal review process will be complemented by a rebuttal stage. For both submission steps, one joint proposal document (in English) shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational consortium and must be submitted to the JCS by uploading it on the electronic submission system by the project coordinator.

The two-step application process will have the following timeline:

13 November, 2025	**Publication of PREVENT-OO call**
18 November, 2025	**Webinar Infoday**
21 January, 2026, before 12h00 CET	**Deadline for pre-proposal submission**
13 April, 2026	Communication of the results of the pre-proposal assessment (invitation for full proposal)
14 April, 2026	Webinar for applicants invited to submit a full proposal
11 June, 2026, before 12h00 CEST	**Deadline for full proposal submission**
24 August – 4 September, 2026	**Rebuttal stage**
End of October 2026	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
December 2026 – May 2027	**Expected project start** (subject to national procedures)

Table 1: Timeline application process

The pre-proposal template will be available on the ERA4Health website (Prevent-00 2026). An application template for the full proposal stage will be sent to the project coordinator by the JCS with the invitation to submit a full proposal. Pre-proposals or full proposals submitted without using the relevant template will be declared non-eligible.

Pre- proposals, full proposals and rebuttal letters submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

If applicable, a proposal should be submitted together with a legal/ethical approval document according to the concerned country's/region's regulations.

For applicants from specific countries/regions it might be mandatory to submit the additional national/regional proposal and/or other information, in some cases before the deadline of this call, directly to the national/regional funding organisations. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to check their funding organisations specific regulations (See Annex I for more details) and reach out the contact person of the appropriate funding organisation.

The Call Steering Committee (CSC, composed of one representative/proxy from each funding organisation participating in the call with funds) will take all lawful steps to ensure confidentiality of the information and documents obtained during the evaluation and selection procedure of the joint call.

Applicants that are invited to submit a full proposal are **strongly encouraged to participate to the webinar scheduled on 14 April 2026** and to **use the mentoring service provided by EATRIS** (more information will be sent to the selected consortia for the submission of a full proposal).

For the submission of full proposals, **the widening concept** will be applied. It will therefore be possible, but not mandatory, to add partners that are eligible for funding by certain funding organisations (with low number of eligible applicants at the first step). The inclusion of a new partner should be relevant for the proposal, and the new partner should be well integrated in your consortium. The list of funding organisations/countries will be provided by the JCS when the results of the first step will be communicated to the coordinators. The maximum limit of 7 partners within the consortium must still be respected. Finally, **it is mandatory for the PI of the new partner to contact its national funding organisation prior to submission of the full proposal and receive approval** (see contact details in Annex I of the call text). A deadline will be provided in the information received by the coordinators.

Further information

For additional information, please contact the JCS for the general call eligibility rules and your national/regional funding organisation Contact Person for national/regional rules (see Annex I).

Evaluation and decision

Eligibility check and evaluation procedure

Formal check and evaluation of pre-proposals

The JCS will check all proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal criteria (date of submission; number and category of participating countries; inclusion of all necessary information in English; appropriate limits on length). In parallel, the JCS will forward the proposals to the national/regional funding organisations, which will perform a check for compliance with national/regional regulations.

Each proposal passing the eligibility check (JCS and country/region) will only be evaluated at a central level and not at the level of each funding organisation.

Each proposal will be individually evaluated by three reviewers for a first evaluation (see evaluation criteria below). The reviewers will perform the assessment of the pre-proposal and complete a written evaluation form with scores and comments for each evaluation criterion. Based on the scores in the written evaluations a ranking list will be established for the proposals on topic 1 and a second ranking list will be established for the proposals on topic 2. Potential conflicts of interests of the evaluators will be taken into consideration during the allocation of the proposals. The CSC members will meet to

decide which proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal based on the reviewers' recommendations while ensuring a reasonable balance of requested and available national/regional budgets. A similar selection rate for the two topics will be aimed for. Pre-proposals which do not pass this assessment will not be invited for the full proposal stage. All consortia will receive the three remote evaluations.

Formal check and evaluation of full proposals.

The JCS will check the full proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal criteria and have not changed substantially from the respective pre-proposals before sending them to the reviewers. Any fundamental change between pre- and full proposals, e.g. concerning the composition of the consortium, the objectives of the project or the requested budget must be communicated to the JCS and to the national/regional involved funding organisations. In exceptional cases, these changes may be admitted if detailed justification is provided and if they are accepted by the CSC.

Each full proposal will be allocated to three reviewers taking into consideration the potential conflicts of interest. The reviewers will perform the assessment of the full proposal and complete a written evaluation form with scores and comments for each criterion (see evaluation criteria below). During a Peer Review Panel (PRP) meeting, the reviewers will discuss all proposals and produce two ranking lists of proposals recommended for funding; one for each topic (1 and 2).

Before the PRP members meet to discuss each **full proposal** in a PRP meeting, each coordinator is provided with the opportunity of getting acquainted with the assessments and commenting on the arguments and evaluations of the reviewers (see section "Rebuttal").

Evaluation Criteria

1. Excellence

a. Scientific quality of the proposal:
- Significance of the research question.
- Clarity and relevance of the objectives.
- Credibility and clarity of the proposed approach and methodology (including power calculations, randomisation, blinding and bias, target group(s) studied, as well as approach to responsible research and innovation).
- Expected progress beyond the state-of-the-art, clearly demonstrating an innovation potential.
- Quality of the project consortium: international competitiveness of participants in the field(s), previous work and specific expertise of the participants, complementarity of the participants, benefit of the transnational collaboration.

b. Novelty and ambition (including translatability of the proposed research to human health).

2. Impact

a. Unmet public and societal need and potential impact of the expected research results for future clinical, public health, and/or other socio-economic health relevant applications including patients' needs and/or for industry (i.e. product development).

b. Added-value of transnational collaboration and potential for fostering international network: gathering a critical mass of patients, sharing of resources (biological material, models, databases, etc.), harmonisation of data, sharing of specific know-how and/or innovative technologies, etc.

c. Participation/engagement with end-users such as patients, industry, clinicians (when appropriate/applicable).

d. Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of intellectual property rights), to communicate the project results in a tailored manner to the different audiences (e.g. policy makers, industry, patients), and to manage research data where relevant.

Sub-criterion 2d will be evaluated at the full proposal evaluation stage.

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

a. Feasibility of proposal and likelihood of successful completion of proposed research.

b. Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan (including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, resources and timeframe).

c. Use of existing biobanks and existing cohorts (when appropriate/applicable).

d. Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk, innovation management and RRI and ethical considerations.

e. Adequacy of the budget: appropriate distribution of resources in relation to project activities, partner's responsibilities and time frame.

f. Sustainability of the research capacities initiated by the project (e.g. FAIR data management, Open Science practices). Quality of Intellectual Property management.

Sub-criterion 3e and 3f will be evaluated at the full proposal evaluation stage.

Proposals not relevant to the call topic and objectives (out of the scope) will not be funded, independently of their scientific quality. Evaluation scores will be awarded for the three main criteria. Each criterion will be scored out of five. The weight of each of the three main criteria is equal.

Scoring system

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the three main criteria. Each criterion will be scored out of five. The weight of each of the three main criteria is equal.

0 = Failure. The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 = Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 = Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 = Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4 = Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 = Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Only integer values are accepted.

A full proposal will be considered fundable if the threshold score for individual criterion is 3 points and the overall score at least 10 points.

Rebuttal stage

Before the PRP members meet to discuss the full proposals in a PRP meeting, each coordinator is provided with the reviewers' assessments. This stage allows applicants to comment on factual errors or misunderstandings that may have occurred in the review process and to reply to reviewers' questions. However, issues not related to reviewers' comments or questions cannot be addressed and the work plan cannot be modified at this stage.

The applicants will have up to 12 days (24 August – 4 September, 2026) for this optional response to the reviewers' comments. Answers sent after the notified deadline or not related with reviewers' comments or questions will be disregarded.

PRP meeting

The JCS will give the PRP members access to full proposals, reviews and rebuttals, avoiding any conflicts of interest. The PRP will meet to discuss each proposal and, after consideration of the evaluation criteria, external reviews, rebuttals, and their own reviews and discussions, the PRP will assign final scores, make a classification of the proposals, and rank proposals recommended for funding. The final summary review report prepared by the PRP members will be sent to the respective project coordinators.

Ethical clearance

After the PRP meeting, Ethics experts will remotely check the full proposals, which are recommended for funding by the PRP and selected for funding by the CSC, for alignment with ethical norms and regulations[7]. A meeting will also be organised for a discussion between the various ethics experts if serious or complex ethics issues are identified in at least one full proposal. If necessary, the ethics experts may ask the consortium for clarifications on the ethical points related to the proposed research approaches and for documents such as the patient consent form. The Ethics experts may highlight some vigilance points that need to be monitored during the implementation of the funded project. Only the proposals approved by both the scientific evaluation and ethical assessment (complying with all central Horizon Europe and regional/national ethical requirements), will be funded. In addition, projects involving human embryonic stem cells (hESC) or human embryos (hE) may not start without prior ethics review carried out by the European Commission and subsequent decision of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee.

[7] Reference to EU Regulation 2021/695 and how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf (europa.eu)

Decision

A final decision, based on the ranking lists established by the PRP, available funding and the ethical clearance, will be taken by the national/regional funding organisations. The CSC will strive to fund as many of the top-evaluated collaborative projects as possible.

Project coordinators having submitted an eligible proposal will be informed about the funding recommendation regarding their proposal by the JCS and will receive a consensus report summarising the evaluation. The projects coordinators are responsible for sharing this information to their project partners.

Redress procedure

Applicants can appeal against the evaluation outcome if they suspect a breach in the application of the evaluation and selection procedures. This redress procedure only covers the procedural aspects of the evaluation and/or eligibility checks, including the national eligibility checks. The redress will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.
In this case they shall submit their appeal to the JCS via email (PREVENT-OO@agencerecherche.fr), up to 7 calendar days after the date of dispatch of the evaluation outcome email by the call secretariat at the end of each stage (first or second step). The proposal outcome email containing the results of the evaluation will give information on the appeals procedure, which is described below.

Admissibility of appeals

For an appeal to be admissible the following conditions must be met:
- The appeal must be submitted by the coordinator of the proposal to which the appeal relates
- Only one appeal per proposal will be considered
- The appeal must be submitted via email within the 7 calendar days deadline. The appeal must contain the following minimum information:

- The name of the call for proposals;
- The proposal acronym;
- The title of the proposal;
- A description of the alleged shortcomings of the evaluation procedure.

The appeal must demonstrate a procedural irregularity, factual error, manifest error of assessment, misuse of powers, or a conflict of interests. Appeals that do not meet the above conditions, or do not deal with the evaluation of a specific proposal or express mere disagreement with the result or the reasoning of the evaluation might be judged as not suitable for redress.

Procedure

Upon receipt of an appeal, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by the call secretariat within 7 calendar days. The acknowledgement shall report the redress process and the anticipated date by which a decision on the appeal will be communicated to the appellant.
All appeals received by the 7 calendar days deadline will be processed together and the decision will be communicated to the appellant within 7 calendar days from the deadline for submitting the appeals.

Responsibilities, Reporting requirements and Dissemination

Consortium Agreement

It will be the responsibility of the project coordinator to draw up a Consortium Agreement (CA) suitable to the project partners in order to manage the delivery of the project activities, finances, intellectual property rights (IPR), to handle confidential data (e.g. patient data) and to avoid disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project. Within a funded consortium, partners must grant each other access - under fair and reasonable conditions — to background needed for exploiting their results, unless the beneficiary that holds the background has — before acceding to the Agreement — informed the other beneficiaries that access to its background is subject to restrictions. The project consortium is strongly encouraged to sign this CA before the official project start date, and in any case the CA should be signed within the first 6 months of the project and provided to the JCS**.** Please note that national regulations may apply concerning the requirement for a CA (e.g. certain funding organisations may need the signed CA to release some funds). Further instructions will be provided by the JCS to the coordinators of the projects selected for funding.

Ethics

All funded partners must respect the fundamental principle of research integrity — as set out in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity8.
This implies compliance with the following principles:

- reliability in ensuring the quality of research reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources
- honesty in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair and unbiased way
- respect for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment
- accountability for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts

All funded partners must ensure that persons carrying out research tasks follow the good research practices including ensuring, where possible, openness, reproducibility and traceability and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the Code. Activities raising ethical issues must comply with the additional requirements formulated by the ethics panels (including after checks, reviews or audits). Before starting the project and for the tasks raising ethical issues, the funded partners must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task, notably from any (national or local) ethics committee or other bodies such as data protection authorities. The documents must be kept on file and be submitted upon request by the coordinator to the granting authority. If they are not in English, they must be submitted together with an English summary, which shows that the documents cover the action tasks in question and includes the conclusions of the committee or authority concerned (if any).

Gender mainstreaming

The funded partners must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the funded projects and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan. They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the funded project, including at supervisory and managerial level.

[8] European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies).

Open Science

Scientific publications:

The all funded partners must ensure open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to their results. In particular, they must ensure that:

- at the latest at the time of publication, a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication, is deposited in a trusted repository for scientific publications
- immediate open access is provided to the deposited publication via the repository, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public Licence (CC BY) or a licence with equivalent rights; for monographs and other long-text formats, the licence may exclude commercial uses and derivative works (e.g. CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND) and
- information is given via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the scientific publication.

Beneficiaries (or authors) must retain sufficient intellectual property rights to comply with the open access requirements.

Metadata of deposited publications must be open under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent, in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine- actionable) and provide information at least about the following: publication (author(s), title, date of publication, publication venue); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the publication, the authors involved in the funded projects and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to validate the conclusions of the publication.

All research projects funded by ERA4Health are eligible to publish on **Open Research Europe (ORE)**, the Platform of the EC[9] at no cost.

Research data management

The beneficiaries must manage the digital research data generated in the funded projects ('data') responsibly, in line with the FAIR10 principles and by taking all of the following actions:

- establish a data management plan (DMP). The first DMP will be requested after 6 months from the official start of the project and a final version at the end of the project.
- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, deposit the data in a trusted repository; if required in the call conditions, this repository must be federated in the EOSC11 in compliance with EOSC requirements
- as soon as possible and within the deadlines set out in the DMP, ensure open access — via the repository — to the deposited data, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public License (CC BY) or Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or a licence with equivalent rights, following the principle 'as open as possible as closed as necessary', unless providing open access would in particular:
- be against the beneficiary's legitimate interests, including regarding commercial exploitation, or
- be contrary to any other constraints, in particular the EU competitive interests or the beneficiary's obligations under this Agreement; if open access is not provided (to some or all data), this must be justified in the DMP
- provide information via the repository about any research output or any other tools and instruments needed to re-use or validate the data.

[9] https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/
[10] https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618
[11] EU's Open Science Policy | European Open Science Cloud - EU Node

Metadata of deposited data must be open under a Creative Common Public Domain Dedication (CC 0) or equivalent (to the extent legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded), in line with the FAIR principles (in particular machine-actionable) and provide information at least about the following: datasets (description, date of deposit, author(s), venue and embargo); Horizon Europe or Euratom funding; grant project name, acronym and number; licensing terms; persistent identifiers for the dataset, the authors involved in the funded projects, and, if possible, for their organisations and the grant. Where applicable, the metadata must include persistent identifiers for related publications and other research outputs.

Progress report

The project coordinator is required to submit an annual scientific progress report on behalf of the consortium to the JCS in March of each year, detailing how the project is progressing in relation to planned objectives. Furthermore, a final scientific report must be sent to the JCS within a period of two months after the project has ended. In addition to the reports, information related to some indicators related to the project may be collected on a platform/survey.

National funding organisations may also request financial and/or scientific annual progress reports and/or a final report on the project from the partners from their respective country.

In addition, **the coordinators of each consortium are required to participate** in a kick-off meeting and to two progress update meetings, one mid-term and one final status symposium that will be organized by the JCS. An appropriate travel budget should be included and justified in the financial plan for the proposal. In case some of the events are organised as an online conference, all partners of the consortia will be encouraged to participate.

Communication

The project coordinator will represent the consortium externally and will be responsible for all communication with the relevant ERA4Health bodies. The coordinator must promptly inform the JCS in case of ANY significant changes in the work plan or the consortium composition. The JCS will inform the relevant funding organisations, who will decide upon the proper action to be taken.

Project coordinators, upon notification, are required to deliver an abstract of their project suitable for communication and dissemination purposes.

For the effective contribution of the project to the objectives of the ERA4Health, the project coordinator should be available to participate in meetings/workshops with the aim of:

- exchanging project results;
- developing a joint strategy to coordinate and facilitate integration of the planned activities of ERA4Health;
- communicating results across ERA4Health.

Importantly, all funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of transnational ERA4Health funded projects include proper acknowledgement of the ERA4Health partnership and the respective funding partner organisations.

"*This project received funding from [name of funding organisations, or an acknowledgment as requested by your national/regional funding organisations] under the umbrella of the Partnership Fostering a European Research Area for Health (ERA4Health) (GA N° 101095426 of the EU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme).*"

All projects funded under this JTC are strongly encouraged to participate in networking and joint activities where appropriate. These activities could involve participating in joint workshops to exchange knowledge, develop and adopt best practices, or carrying out joint communication. They could also involve networking and joint activities with projects funded under other action of Horizon Europe or another EU programmes.

Confidentiality

The ERA4Health JCS takes all reasonable steps to ensure that information provided in the application is treated confidential.

The proposals will be handled confidentially by the JCS and by the national/regional funding organisations. In selecting the international experts for the PRP, the JCS shall endeavour to avoid any possible conflicts of interest.

Each expert will have to sign a declaration of confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest. In case of a conflict of interest, the reviewer will be withdrawn from evaluating the respective proposal. Conflicts of interest are managed and recorded throughout the evaluation process.

General Data Protection Regulation

The following Data Privacy Notice applies:

By submitting an application, the applicants consent to the use, processing and retention of their personal data[12], in accordance with article 6.1 (e) and (c) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679) and for the purposes of:

- processing and evaluating the application where processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller,
- administering any subsequent funding award,
- managing the funding organisations relationship with them,
- analysing and evaluating the call,
- providing aggregate data to national and European surveys and analyses on the funded projects,
- and complying with audits that may be initiated by the funding organisations and the European Commission (or its agencies).

The members of the CSC may share applicant's data with third parties (some of which may be based outside the European Economic Area) in relation to the above activities including evaluators, auditors and the European Commission (or its agencies).

The members of the CSC may link the data that funding recipients provide in the application with national, bibliographic or external research funding data which are available through public subscription-based databases (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science, etc.) or other national / open datasets.

[12] Last name, first name of the researchers, date of birth, professional contact information, degree(s), position (current and previous), fields of activity, place of work, organisation, address(es), curriculum vitae, ORCID number, name and reference of projects, pre-proposals, project proposals (scientific document, administrative and financial appendix).

ERA4Health Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Guidelines

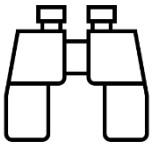
What is RRI and why do we need it?

Health research and innovation is crucial for maintaining and improving European public health. In this context, it is easy to acknowledge that science is not separate from society but part of it, which confers an important social responsibility on science. It is important, therefore, that funders, researchers and other key groups involved in the development of science, technology and innovation think about: (i) the potential directions of research being taken; (ii) who might benefit from new research and inventions and who might not; and (iii) how consideration of the potential social, environmental and ethical issues can be considered throughout the science and innovation process. Responsible research and innovation (RRI) is not about adjudicating what is 'good 'or 'bad', 'positive 'or 'negative', or 'responsible 'or 'irresponsible'. Instead, RRI offers techniques, tools and frameworks to think about questions of social responsibility and ensure scientists, funders and technologists don't lose sight of the context in which they do science, technology and innovation.

RRI is closely related to other cross-cutting issues, and actions can be taken that address both RRI and other important values, such as public/user engagement, open science or ethical assessments.

What is ERA4Health's approach to RRI?

ERA4Health's approach to RRI is focused on improving the quality of research and innovation by keeping the broader context of your work visible. It encourages you to embed methodologies and processes to consider four important dimensions related to research and innovation:



Anticipation. What might the future desirable and undesirable effects of your work be? Who will benefit from it, and who might not? Can decisions be made now to encourage the good, while minimising the bad effects? This isn't about exhaustive prediction but about building a sense of preparedness for the future.

Inclusion. Whose voices and knowledge are shaping your research project? In health research, much evidence shows that patient organisations, health care users and health professionals (amongst others) can improve the quality of innovation. Inclusion is about creating opportunities for two-way exchange of information, co-design or knowledge co-production to draw important outside voices into the research process.

Reflection. Are there opportunities for you and your team to pause and take stock' about what you're doing? Would everyone agree with your goals and the

decisions you've taken so far? Reflection is about making sure there is space and time to collectively ask hard questions about a project's foundations.

Responsiveness. What are the key decision points in your project? Are there opportunities to change course, if you need to? The final dimension is a reminder that the work you do under the label of RRI needs to shape the design, governance or use of your research or innovation.

In sum RRI provides a framework to ask how research and innovation should be carried out in order to ensure that we achieve the societal goals of research and innovation in an open and inclusive way. ERA4Health believes that the RRI methodology improves the quality of research proposals and projects, and substantively engaging with this framework will therefore be rewarded in the proposal evaluation process.

How should you include RRI in your project?

Experience with past funding programmes shows that these four dimensions – anticipation, inclusion, reflection and responsiveness – provide a useful heuristic to think about social responsibility across a range of domains. However, the diversity of health science and the range of local contexts engaged within ERA4Health means that there cannot be a one size fits all approach. The specific approach to RRI must be tailored to the actual social, environmental and ethical issues raised by a project's research and innovation activities.

This means that ***the commitment*** to RRI is clear and fixed in the programme, but there is an openness about the issues addressed and the specific ways to practise responsibility – these must be adapted to each project. In general, your approach to RRI should be proportionate to your proposal – disruptive, ground-breaking or high-TRL (Technology Readiness Level) work is likely to require a more substantive engagement with RRI. If the research is exploratory then RRI components can also be exploratory – teasing out the potential visions, goals and end uses of a project. Overall, the goal is to demonstrate that you have engaged and seriously considered the tensions and meaningful societal benefits associated with health research and innovation.

The text below therefore provides overall ideas and advice but cannot give a recipe that all potential applicants may use. However, the following four points will provide a good foundation as to how develop your approach to RRI in your proposal:

1. Treat **RRI as an integrated part of the project** involving as many project members as possible. Do not think of RRI as distinct from the science but as central to it. It is a process that will increase the likelihood of delivering applications with real utility, fair accessibility and concrete value for citizens.

2. It is important to develop a **shared understanding of the project's RRI aspects** as early as possible, and for the work plan to be specific to the project. Avoid writing generic, boiler-plate text. By 'RRI aspects' we mean implications or characteristics of your research that touch upon societal, ethical and environmental values.

3. **Develop the scientific and RRI components in tandem.** This means you will need to have conversations about the goals, uncertainties and assumptions associated with the scientific ideas. It is important to continue these conversations if the project is funded.

4. **Make sure you adequately resource RRI.** It takes time, effort, expertise and money to do RRI well. While there is no one approach to operationalising RRI within a project, ideally RRI needs to be coordinated and should have a lead.

BUT WHAT SHOULD YOU ACTUALLY DO?

Starting points to help you identify the most relevant dimensions for your project.
The following questions will direct you to different RRI perspectives applicable for health research and innovation projects. Many of these perspectives can be explored in a structured way with a range of methodologies (for additional resources, see box below).
Please be aware that these options neither represent a complete list of examples, nor the mandated approaches to RRI by ERA4Health.

1. **Who will benefit from your project**, who will not, and who may experience new risks? Are those answers acceptable to you?

    a. Does your project address a specific health-related or societal problem or need?
    b. Will your innovation be affordable and accessible? If not, is that a problem?
    c. Does your framing of the problem fit with other people's understanding of it? Can you access these alternative framings?
    d. How does your approach to the health challenge compare to others approaches?
    e. What is the most appropriate form of intellectual property (IP) for your project goals and affordability aspirations? Do classical IP strategies deliver the broadest benefit? Can new strategies (e.g. Open Material Transfer Agreements) be adopted at certain points of the research process?
    f. How could commercial or non-commercial organisations benefit from your research?
    g. Are there foreseeable risks that you can mitigate now? For instance, what are the potential risks of data being released? How can you take care to ensure these data are interpreted appropriately?

2. Have you identified and involved **relevant stakeholders and have you considered public engagement activities**? Are there opportunities for stakeholders and the public to contribute to your work? Stakeholders are people or organisations with a vested interest in the project (both positive and negative), who may also contribute knowledge to it. They could be patients, minorities and marginalised groups, health system users, special interest groups, health professionals, companies, non-profits, or advocacy organisations. A number of different considerations for stakeholder engagement are important:

    a. **Think about the methodology you will use**. For instance, 'co-design' and 'knowledge co-production' methodologies are good at generating trust and allowing stakeholders, including the public, to contribute their knowledge to the problem your project is trying to address.
    b. **Think also about the appropriate timing** of different stakeholders' inclusion: certain kinds of knowledge may be more useful early on, whereas other knowledge may be useful later.
    c. It will likely be valuable (but not obligatory) to **include expertise beyond the medical and health science**s – such as lawyers, social scientists or philosophers – to provide anticipatory and reflective methodologies or to address key challenges. Approach them early in your project design.

d. Think about **how best to formalise and include stakeholder knowledge** in your project. Are they best placed as scientific collaborators, as members of an advisory board, or as consultants to deliver only specific tasks? Check if your approach is in line with the national/regional funding rules before designing your proposal.

3. **Have you created good deliberative spaces** for your project team, partners and aforementioned stakeholders, including the public, to anticipate and reflect on the broader social, political, ethical or environmental context of your research? If not, RRI experts in Science and Technology Studies, medical sociology, bioethics and science communication may be able to help you with this in project design and implementation. A number of different approaches are possible, e.g.:

a. Focusing on your day-to-day research work ("philosopher in the lab approach").
b. Using foresight and critical futures methodologies.
c. Utilising a diverse advisory board.
d. Trans-disciplinary reflection at consortium meetings.
e. Using stage-gate approaches where explicit decisions about technological choices are taken.

4. Have you reflected on/considered adapting **your choice of research methods** regarding, for example:

a. Ethical issues in the project (including ethical considerations in the design of participatory science and possibly broader than the "ethics self-assessment")?
b. The use of data in your project – where does it come from, how will it be used and where will it go? How will ethical use be ensured?
c. In vivo/in vitro experiments and need for use of animals in experiments?
d. Use of new approaches such as "Safe(r) by Design"?
e. Your ability to increase the likelihood of translation by outlining e.g. strategies of scientific rigour, and strategies to reduce bias, inclusion of sex/gender as a biological variable in study design?
f. Open Science (such as open data, open code, open protocol or other low barrier data sharing practices) and other publication practices (including report all results, also negative or so-called null results)?
g. And are there ways that your project can advance common practices on these issues?

5. Have you engaged with important aspects of **your research environment** such as:

a. gender, ethnicity and intersectional equality, diversity and inclusivity?
b. career progression and precarity?
c. equity between partners in your research consortium?

6. Have you shown how the project (and product) satisfies requirements for **patient and production safety** and efficiency? Will there be clear benefits for the patient by, for example by:

a. listening to/satisfying user needs and safety concerns, or involving them in design;
b. involving regulatory affairs professionals (toxicity tests, etc.),
c. communicating with regulatory entities as early as possible (the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the European Medicines Agency (pharmaceuticals and medical devices), etc.

7. Have you considered and evaluated **environmental impacts and sustainable solutions**, in line with the **Do No Significant Harm principle**[10], by including, for example:
    a. lifecycle analysis (LCA)?
    b. ecotoxicology studies?
    c. safer- sustainable-, or recyclable-by-design methodologies?

How does ERA4Health support and evaluate RRI?

Health research and innovation happens in many different locations (e.g. universities, hospitals, care homes, companies, policy organisations), involves different stages of research (i.e. across the TRL spectrum) and different research cultures. Responsibility for innovation must be shared, and RRI therefore requires a multi-level approach.

ERA4Health is taking a systemic approach to RRI, considering it in the development of the annual work programme and the resulting funding calls. These guidelines were developed in collaboration with members of the ERA4Health community, and will be updated on a rolling basis. The programme's capacity building activities will also facilitate a dialogue among stakeholders in health research about RRI and ethical issues.

At the level of research projects, **ERA4Health requires that all proposers explain how their projects demonstrate a commitment to investigating and addressing the social, environmental, ethical, political or cultural dimensions of the proposed research.** Integration of RRI should lead to an improved understanding and awareness of the possible benefits, risks, and uncertainties of health science across a broad cross-section of society. This may include (but is not limited to) any of the approaches described in the above section.

In the (pre-)proposal templates, three sections/points refer to RRI and ethics considerations and leave space for you to explain your approaches:

- General RRI aspects
- Involvement of stakeholders and the public
- Ethical considerations (in your ethics self-assessment)

RRI components will be given advise on/evaluated by experts as integral components within the scope of all evaluation criteria (Excellence, Impact, and Implementation). RRI does not detract from the overall scoring but contributes to it: Proposals that explicitly aim to advance processes of anticipation, reflection, inclusion and responsiveness by developing new analyses or methodologies will be rewarded in the review process and the scores will be adjusted accordingly. In pre-proposals: The research consortia will receive advice on the RRI dimension from their proposal via written comments from an RRI Adviser that will be shared with the reviewers. In full proposals: RRI Advisers will comment on proposals before the Per Review Panel (PRP) meeting and be invited to give additional advice on RRI and support the discussions during the PRP meeting.

The kinds of questions the RRI Advisers/reviewers will ask regarding RRI are:

<u>Relating to Excellence</u>

- Is the RRI approach proportionate to the content of the scientific proposal?
- Does RRI extend across the lifespan of the project? (e.g. as a sub-project, an advisory board or to be considered in annual meetings)
- Are there clear deliverables associated with the RRI work, with ambitions to contribute to RRI scholarship and/or new knowledge of the social, political, ethical or environmental dimensions of health science?

<u>Relating to Impact</u>

- Are there clear opportunities for the RRI work to shape the project's scientific trajectories?
- Does the RRI work help align the project's research better to the needs and values of society?

<u>Relating to Implementation</u>

- Is there appropriate RRI expertise in the project?
- Is RRI work adequately resourced? Is it clear how the objectives will be achieved?
- Is it clear how the work is organised? (e.g. as a work package, a cross-cutting issue, outsourced etc.)
- Is it clear who is doing the work and what they will do?

WEB RESOURCES FOR INCLUDING RRI IN YOUR PROJECT:

www.rri-tools.eu provide numerous resources for practical RRI.

https://thinkingtool.eu/: The Societal Readiness Thinking Tool guides you through the steps of including RRI in a project.

The Centre for Digital Life Norway has also compiled a range of resources that may help develop your approach.

Tools for public engagement: https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/resources and http://actioncatalogue.eu/

Further examples specific to health science and innovation will in the future be provided on the RRI webpage of ERA4Health (coming).

ERA4HEALTH's approach to RRI builds on previous frameworks published by the UK's EPSRC, the Research Council of Norway, the European Commission and funding programmes such as M-ERA.NET, ERA CoBioTech and EuroNanoMed3.

ANNEX I

Country	Belgium
Funding organisation	Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (F.R.S.- FNRS)
National contact person	Dr. Maxime Bonsir +32 2 504 9236 Joël Groeneveld +32 2 504 9270 international@frs-fnrs.be
Funding commitment	300.000 €
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	1
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	300 000 € for a total period of three years. If the project involves the recruitment of a PhD student, the project duration of the F.R.S.-FNRS sub-project could be up to four years (see PINT-MULTI Regulations for details)
Eligibility of partners	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI regulations. It is **strongly advised** to contact the F.R.S.-FNRS prior to submission regarding the eligibility criteria. Please note that the F.R.S.-FNRS only funds Basic research (low Technology Readiness Level) carried out in a research institution from the "Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles". The F.R.S.-FNRS will not fund industrial partners or any activity related to the private sector. Nevertheless, partners funded by the F.R.S.-FNRS can be in a consortium where there are also partners from the private sector.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the PINT-MULTI regulations. Please note that personnel costs have an annual average cap of 80 000 euros for this call (see PINT-MULTI regulations). Please check the Practical guide on costs for any other questions. For "overhead" costs: - Operating expenses: up to 1% within the granted budget. This percentage should be included in the requested operating budget. - Personnel: up to 2% outside of the granted budget. This percentage will be paid upon reimbursement of expenses to institutions by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Applicants to F.R.S.-FNRS funding must provide basic administrative data by submitting an administrative application on e-space **within 5 working days after the general deadline of the ERA4Health call to be eligible**. Please select the "PINT-MULTI" funding instrument when creating the administrative application. Proposals invited to the second stage will be able

	to complete the pre-proposal form and provide information for the full proposal upon validation by the F.R.S.-FNRS.
Submission of other information at the national level	As described in the PINT-MULTI regulations.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Financial reporting must be submitted to the F.R.S.-FNRS. As described in the PINT-MULTI regulations.
Further guidance	PINT-MULTI regulations, e-space

Country	Belgium
Funding organisation	The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
National contact person	Toon Monbaliu (FO) europe@fwo.be +32 (0)2 550 15 70 Kristien Peeters (SBO) europe@fwo.be +32 (0)2 550 15 95
Funding commitment	700.000 EUR
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2-3
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum 350.000 EUR per project (overhead included). If several FWO-funded partners are involved in one project, the funding must be shared between them.
Eligibility of partners	FWO supports research and knowledge-dissemination organisations (not for profit) located in Flanders. In this call, FWO deploys two of its regular funding channels: Fundamental Research Projects (FO) and Strategic Basic Research Projects (SBO). Researchers should choose the appropriate channel based on their project type, with eligibility details available in the regulations on the FWO website. Note that projects aiming at the development of a spin-off company are not eligible in this context. In this call, the PI can be a coordinator on one proposal or a partner on up to two proposals. Participating in this call does not affect FWO's national project submission limits. The PI must have an appointment covering the full project duration. PIs who become emeritus during the application year or project period are ineligible, i.e. art. 10 §7 of the regulations FO does not apply.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Different cost models and overhead calculations apply to each channel (FO vs. SBO). For overhead calculation, apply a structural rate to total costs: FO projects use 6% and SBO projects use 17%. For example, an SBO project costing 250,000 EUR amounts to 292,500 EUR with a 17% overhead, staying within the budget cap of 350,000 EUR. On FWO's e-portal, enter only the actual cost; FWO will add the overhead. The project has a duration of 36 months and all allocated funds must be spent within this timeframe. There are no automatic extensions granted, nor may any unused funds be carried forward after the project's end date, i.e. article 28 of the regulations FO and article 14 of the regulations SBO do not apply.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Applicants for FWO funding must submit a **mandatory administrative application** through FWO's e-portal. Select "Research projects – European programme fundamental research" for FO projects or "Research projects – European programme strategic basic research" for SBO projects. If multiple Flemish partners request FWO funding, include all relevant partner details in a single e-portal submission.

	The national submission deadline matches the joint transnational call's preproposal stage. However, to confirm eligibility, it is recommended to consult the FWO administration at least one week prior. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in ineligibility.
Submission of other information at the national level	NA
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	For scientific reports, FWO-funded researchers should follow the transnational reporting requirements. FWO does not require additional scientific reporting at the national level. However, FWO does require financial reporting at the national level. Its modalities follow the usual procedure within the national framework. One additional feature: at the end of the project FWO will ask for a cost statement, in light of our own reporting requirements.
Further guidance	To avoid any potential issues, we encourage you to contact the FWO administration in advance. We are pleased to assist you in ensuring the eligibility of your project proposal and consortium.

Country	Egypt
Funding organisation	Academy for Science and Research Technology (ASRT)
National contact person	Dr.Amr Radwan Email and Phone: Innov@sti.sci.eg, Radwan.amro@gmail.com +20227920126 101 Kasr Al-Ainy Street, 11516, 6th floor, Cairo, Egypt
Funding commitment	0.3 million EUR
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	3
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	• Up to EUR 100,000 (when participating as partner) • Up to EUR 130,000 (when the Egyptian entity is the consortium coordinator/lead) Funding is per Egyptian legal entity; multi-beneficiary participation from Egypt shares the national cap.
Eligibility of partners	• Eligible applicants: Egyptian legal entities established in Egypt, including public or private research-performing organisations (universities, research institutes, university hospitals), and other legal entities (e.g., non-profits, SMEs, enterprises) able to carry out the work and sign a national grant/contract with ASRT. • PI load: The Egyptian PI may not hold >2 ongoing ASRT-funded projects as PI or coordinator at the time of contracting.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	• Public research bodies / universities / public hospitals: up to 100% of eligible costs from ASRT (subject to budget caps above). • Budgets must be necessary, reasonable, and justified: 1. Personnel – PI, researchers, technical/support staff assigned to the project; time-recording required. Cap: up to 25% of the ASRT-requested contribution (per Egyptian applicant). 2. Consumables & project materials – lab consumables, kits, small supplies. 3. Other direct costs essential to achieve objectives: e.g., manufacturing of specimens/prototypes, IP protection and publications, access to specialised databases/software, fees for facilities in other national institutions, external services that are not core tasks. 4. Equipment – fully justified 5. Travel & subsistence – per Mission Directorate (MoHE) rules and institutional policies; economy class only (upgrades at own cost); travel must directly serve the work plan. 6. Meetings & events – reasonable organisational costs for scientific meetings, workshops, and consortium meetings. 7. Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) and FAIR data management costs – eligible (e.g., user/patient engagement, data curation, repositories) 8. Indirect costs (overheads) – 5% of eligible direct costs Not eligible / capped: • Activities primarily supporting teaching programmes (course delivery), stand-alone website launches or design/development of original teaching tools are capped collectively at ≤15% of the

	Egyptian applicant's requested budget (communication for research dissemination remains eligible).
Submission of the proposal at the national level	N/A
Submission of other information at the national level	N/A
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Scientific and financial reports submitted on a regular basis as per local contractual regulation and applied policies of ASRT
Further guidance	none

Country	Estonia
Funding organisation	The Estonian Research Council
National contact person	Margit Suuroja, margit.suuroja@etag.ee, +372 731 7360
Funding commitment	300 000 EUR
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	1
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Max. 150 000 EUR as a project partner and max. 300 000 EUR as a project coordinator. **All project-related costs must be incurred no later than 31.08.2029**, i.e. the Estonian partner's activities must be completed by that time.
Eligibility of partners	**The Host Institution** may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account. If the Host Institution is a for-profit institution, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account. **The Principal Investigator**: 1. must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the preproposal submission deadline; 2. must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the preproposal submission deadline of the grant application at the latest; 3. must have published at least three articles that comply with the requirements of Clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles that comply with the requirements of Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five calendar years prior to the proposal submission deadline.1 International patents are equaled with publications specified under Clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS Clause 2.1) is equaled with three publications specified in Clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or fewer. If the applicant has been on pregnancy and maternity or parental leave or performed compulsory service in the Defence Forces, or has another good reason, they can request the publication period requirement to be extended by the relevant period of time. If the Principal Investigator has received the PhD degree outside Estonia, its correspondence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognised by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Center or the Host Institution in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of April 6, 2006, No. 89 "Evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the name of the qualification awarded in the foreign education system terms and conditions of use". The Funding Organisation may ask for a relevant Evaluation Report. If several Estonian institutions participate in a proposal, all institutions must have a Principal Investigator who meets the national eligibility requirements.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	**Direct costs**: 1.**Personnel costs** are monthly salaries (along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law) of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution. 2. **Other direct costs** are: - travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel Insurance. If the project is funded from the European

	Regional Development Fund (Mobilitas 3.0) resources, travel costs are eligible only for travel abroad; - consumables and minor equipment directly and fully related to the project; - publication and dissemination of project results; - organising meetings, seminars or conferences (e.g room rent, catering, equipment rental and related costs); - fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events directly and fully related to the project; - patent costs; - all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for carrying out the project (e.g. translation, copy editing, webpage hosting, etc.) and are directly and fully related to the project. 3. **Indirect costs (overhead)** are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and/or should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution related to the management of the grant. Office consumables and costs for equipment and services intended for general use (e.g., phone bills, copy service, printer) should be covered from the indirect costs. Indirect costs are 15% of the personnel costs. 4. **Subcontracting costs** are direct costs. Subcontracting costs should cover only additional or complementary research-related tasks (e.g. analyses, conducting surveys, building a prototype, etc.) performed by third parties. Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation. The activities and budget should be described in the proposal. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. Subcontracting costs may not exceed 15% of the total costs. 5. Double funding of activities is not acceptable. 6. If several Estonian institutions participate in one proposal, the sum of their requested budgets may not exceed the maximum contribution of the respective national Funding Organisation indicated in the call documents. EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	NO
Submission of other information at the national level	NO
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Financial reports are required as well as yearly and end-term scientific reports.
Further guidance	https://etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Vastavusnouded-RV-uhiskonkurssidel_aprill-2025.pdf

Country	France
Funding organisation	French Research Funding Agency (ANR)
National contact person	Ingrid Pfeifer/Martine Batoux Phone number: +33 1 78 09 80 22 /+33 1 73 54 81 40 ERA4HealthCall@agencerecherche.fr
Funding commitment	2 500 000 €
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	4-6
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	ANR funding will be limited to 250 000 € per French applicant. For a French Partner taking over the coordination of the project, the maximum budget can be increased up to 300 000 €. Minimum amount per partner: 15 000 €. If there are two French partners in one project, the maximum amount per project is 400 000 €.
Eligibility of partners	ANR may finance fundamental research, industrial research and experimental developments. ANR may fund research organisations and undertakings, as defined by the EC regulation on State aid for research, development and innovation (see the ANR Funding regulations at actual costs for further reference). Only research organisations that have their primary establishment in France may be funded. As for undertakings, ANR may fund those that have their real head office in an EU member State and an establishment (primary or secondary) in France. Within this framework, research institutions such as EPST, EPIC, Universities, Hospitals as well as most Foundations, Associations and Enterprises can apply. This list is not comprehensive and funding rates vary. Please consult the ANR Funding regulations for more details ("at actual costs" version). Please note that companies in difficulty are excluded from ANR subventions (More details here: ANR-RF-Fiche-EED-2021.pdf). Partners from countries subject to sanctions applicable to the research field by the European Union authorities are excluded from this call for ANR. ANR will declare Partners requesting its support ineligible if they apply with Partners established in these countries. At the date of publication, these exclusions concern Partners from the following countries and territories: Russia, Belarus, territories of Ukraine not controlled by the Ukrainian government but not Hungarian Partners. This list may evolve in case of new sanctions decided by the European Union. In keeping with the national "PPST" policy (scientific and technological potential protection), applicants to ANR should consult their local "FSD" (security and defence officer, where available) on their project before applying. Applications to ANR may be forwarded to the HFSD of the French Ministry of research and higher education for screening. A negative appraisal by the HFSD may cause ANR to reject the proposal.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Standard ANR funding rules apply for eligible costs, unless stated otherwise in the Annex « *Modalités pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR* ». These rules are specified in ANR's "ANR Funding regulations" details ("at

	actual costs" version). An explanatory note regarding the eligible costs is also available at: https://anr.fr/fr/rf/fiche-couts/ Eligible costs (e.g.: personnel costs, costs of instruments and equipment, additional overheads and other operating expenses incurred directly as a result of the research project such as, for instance: travel costs) and funding rates vary based on the type of research and research partner (more info here). Please note that expenses related to permanent staff stipends are not eligible for the Beneficiaries "à coût marginal".
Submission of the proposal at the national level	No additional documents should be submitted to ANR during the submission phase.
Submission of other information at the national level	When a project is selected for funding, administrative and financial data of the partners funded by ANR must be entered by the applicant on the ANR platform.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	The ANR funded partners must communicate to ANR the required Scientific reports, Consortium Agreement, Data management plans according to the funding contract and as required to the project coordinator by ERA4Health. Administrative reporting documents (financial reports or certificate of closure, depending on the type of beneficiary, must be communicated to ANR according to the provisions of ANR Funding regulations ("at actual costs" version). If applicable, Declarations of Due Diligence for the financed projects (Nagoya Protocol) must also be transmitted to ANR in due time.
Further guidance	ANR does not allow double application nor double funding and will not finance projects or part of projects that have been funded through other calls. See Annex « *Modalités pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR* » for additional ANR rules available on the ANR website The above-mentioned terms and conditions are only summarized translations of those entailed in the ANR Funding regulations and in the Annex. In case of inconsistencies, the terms of the ANR Funding regulations and the Annex shall prevail. Please consult these documents for more details.

Country	Germany
Funding organisation	Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space represented by DLR Project Management Agency (BMFTR/DLR)
National contact person	Name : Dr. Svenja Finck Dr. Felicitas Bosen Phone: +49 228 3821 1877 +49 228 3821 1878 E-mail: era4health@dlr.de Address: DLR PT, on behalf of the BMFTR Heinrich-Konen-Str. 1 53227 Bonn Germany
Funding commitment	2.0 M€
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	5 - 6
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 350.000€ **per consortium** (overhead costs included**).** Up to 400.000€ **per consortium** with a German partner as coordinator (overhead costs included). **Only one German partner per consortium is intended.** If two German partners are needed to conduct the proposed research, the maximum amount of funding per consortium has to be shared. **The applicants (Principal Investigator) are not allowed to participate in more than one research proposal.**
Eligibility of partners	Eligible applicants are researchers or research groups from German universities, German university hospitals, German non-university research institutes and industry/SMEs registered in Germany (subject to certain conditions). For specific conditions see also link to German version of the call below.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	The following costs are eligible for funding (details see German version of the call): - Research costs (e.g. personnel, consumables) - Travel & networking costs - Communication & dissemination costs - Overhead costs (“Projektpauschale”) Overheads are eligible according to standard BMFTR regulations. Funding rates for universities, university hospitals and non-university research institutes can be up to 100% of their costs. Industry can be funded with a maximum of 80% of their cost.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	On request in case of a positive funding recommendation
Submission of other information at the national level	On request in case of a positive funding recommendation

Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	On request in case of a positive funding recommendation
Further guidance	See also German version of the call: https://www.gesundheitsforschung-bmftr.de/de/18961.php

Country	Greece
Funding organisation	General Secretariat for Research and Innovation
National contact person	Foteini Karagkouni 0030 2131300132 f.karagkouni@gsrt.gr
Funding commitment	500.000 euros
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2-3
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Upper limit of the total public funding will be **200 000 € per project (including indirect costs).** Please note that this amount can be increased to **250 000 € per project if Greek partner assumes the project coordination.** The maximum state aid intensity will be calculated according to the provisions of the European state aid rules and regulations in force (type of research activity, size of the participating enterprise, collaborative research).
Eligibility of partners	GSRI potentially supports all private and public legal entities namely: private enterprises (such as SMEs, large-companies etc), research organizations, higher education institutions, and other public organizations with R&D activities, associations without economic activities, NGOs. Large enterprises receive funding under the condition that in the consortium participates a Greek SME. Individuals as well as individual enterprises are not eligible under this scheme.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	➢ ***Aid of intensity*** **Public research Institutes and Universities**: the aid intensity can reach 100% for performing non-economic activities in accordance with point 19, article 2.1.1 of the «Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation» (2014/C 198/01). **Private Sector:** (a) 50% of the eligible costs for industrial research; (b) 25% of the eligible costs for experimental development- The aid intensities for industrial research and experimental development may be increased **up to a maximum aid intensity of 70%** of the eligible costs as follows: (a) by 10 percentage points for medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points for small enterprises; (b) by 15 percentage points if the following condition is fulfilled: the project involves effective collaboration between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results. ➢ ***Foreseen cost categories:*** (a) personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project.

(b)) costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible.
(c) costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project.
(d) additional general costs and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies, travel expenses, organization of meetings, dissemination/publicity costs, audit costs, incurred directly as a result of the project implementation.
(e) indirect costs = 25% of direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible for all legal entities and include costs that do not incur directly as a result of the project implementation (e. g. administrative and management costs, utility costs).
In compliance with the (COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

Funding rates

Maximum funding percentages:

		Industrial/Applied Research	**Experimental development/innovation**
Large Enterprises		50-65	25-40
Medium Enterprises		60-70	35-50
Small Enterprises		70	45-60
Universities, public research organisations		100-	100-
Public authorities with R&D activities		-	-
Associations without economic		**Large** 50-65 **Medium** 60-70	**Large** 25-40 **Medium** 35-50

	activities, NGOs (according to corresponding type of enterprise (small, medium, large)) | | **Small** 70 | **Small** 45-60 TRL3-(8) in compliance with the (COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, page 3, article 13)
Submission of the proposal at the national level	At national level, only eligibility check is conducted and not a full peer review at pre-proposal and full proposal stages. We rely on the evaluation made by the Call Evaluation Committee and external reviewers. ***Submission at the national level is required at a later stage.*** A national procedure will follow for the approved for funding, at the transnational level, proposals only. For more information please contact the NCP.
Submission of other information at the national level	See above
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	No at pre- and full proposal stage, only after funding decision and contracting according to national call and procedure
Further guidance	The funding organisation will not fund basic research.

Country	Hungary
Funding organisation	National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)
National contact person	Zsuzsanna Kürti National Research, Development and Innovation Office Budapest 1077, Kéthly Anna tér 1. ncp@nkfih.gov.hu
Funding commitment	200 000 EUR
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	200 000 EUR
Eligibility of partners	Eligible applicants from Hungary: • enterprises with legal entity • non-profit organisations with legal entity • higher education and research institutions • budgetary units and entities, municipalities; Please note that within these categories specific eligibility rules may apply. Please check the Hungarian national call on specific eligibility rules: https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Please consult the Hungarian national call on the eligibility of specific cost categories: https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas
Submission of the proposal at the national level	The Guide for Applicants for the 2024-1.2.1-HE_PARTNERSÉG national call is applicable. https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas
Submission of other information at the national level	The Guide for Applicants for the 2024-1.2.1-HE_PARTNERSÉG national call is applicable. https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	The Guide for Applicants for the 2024-1.2.1-HE_PARTNERSÉG national call is applicable. https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas
Further guidance	Hungarian national call on partnerships and related documents at https://nkfih.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/horizont-europa-europai-partnersegek-magyar-szervezetek-tamogatasa-2024-121-he-partnerseg/palyazati-felhivas

Country	Israel		
Funding organisation	Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH)		
National contact person	Dr. Irit Allon	irit.allon@moh.health.gov.il	+972 (0)2 5082167
	Netta Koren	netta.koren@moh.health.gov.il	+972 (0) 545889393
Funding commitment	320,000 €		
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	Up to 2 Projects		
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 140,000 € Additional 20,000 € for coordination		
Eligibility of partners	Position in a university, research center or hospital. Research authority must approve position prior to submission.		
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Materials and consumables; Travel and hosting (up to 5%); No salaries for applicants; No heavy equipment, Institutional overhead 10%.		
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Prior to submission, researchers will submit to CSO-MOH an abstract approved by their research authority including budget distribution. No submission of abstract can result in declaration of the consortium as ineligible.		
Submission of other information at the national level	If the application involves human or animal experiments, bioethics approvals must be submitted with the application.		
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Required annually.		
Further guidance	Please see detailed instructions of application at the national level and reporting at https://www.gov.il/he/service/era-net-instructions-for-israeli-researchers		

Country	Italy
Funding organisation	Ministry of Health (IT MOH)
National contact person	Grazia Papagni int-dgric@sanita.it; g.papagni@sanita.it
Funding commitment	1.000.000 €
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Max 400.000 per project.
Eligibility of partners	Only IRCCS (Istituti di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) researchers are eligible to apply. Universities, other research Institutes, companies are excluded from funding. Simultaneous PI participation in different 2026 JTCs funded by the Ministry of Health is not allowed. No more than two Italian PIs (Principal Investigators) are eligible to apply for the same project. Italian PAOs can be funded as a sub-contractor of an IRCCS if they fulfil the eligibility criteria of the EC. The maximum amount eligible for a subcontract is < 10% of the total budget (from the IRCCS Budget). Italian PAOs can still participate in Consortia as "Collaborators" with their own funds.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Direct Costs: • Personnel (only temporary contracts or permanent contracts for the amount of hours dedicated to the project, <60%); • Consumables/Supplies; • Animals/Model costs; • Equipment (only on leasing or rent); • Travel (< 30%); • Dissemination activities (< 1%); • Publication costs: < 2%; open access < 5%; • Patients recruitment costs; • IT Services and Data Bases; • Coordination costs Indirect Costs: • Overhead (< 10%, included in the total); Other indirect costs are not eligible. Transfer of eligible funds abroad is not allowed. Subcontracts are allowed only upon approval, by presenting via Workflow – code ER, a request together with the National preelegibility form, the latest 20 days before the deadline of the pre-proposal submission.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	In order to expedite the eligibility check process, the Ministry of Health will grant an eligibility clearance to the applicant prior to the submission of the proposals. To this end, it is mandatory that the applicants fill out and return to the IT-MoH a pre-submission eligibility check form through their IRCCS, using WFR System-> ER communication code, before submitting their proposal to the Joint Call Secretariat. It is strongly recommended that the form, completed and duly signed, is returned at least 10 working days before the proposal submission deadline. Applicants will be sent written notification of their eligibility status. Changes in acronyms and budgets

	provided in the pre-submission eligibility check are not allowed. The pre-eligibility form can be downloaded here: www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_4441_0_file.pdf
Submission of other information at the national level	
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Submission of annual scientific and financial reports at the national level will be required according to the rules of the Ministry of Health (Ricerca Finalizzata).
Further guidance	Further information on the rules of the Ministry of Health can be requested to the national contact persons.

Country	Latvia
Funding organisation	Latvian Council of Science
National contact person	Maija Bundule E-mail: Maija.Bundule@lzp.gov.lv Tel: +371- 26514481 Uldis Berkis E-mail: Uldis.Berkis@lzp.gov.lv Tel.: +371-29472349
Funding commitment	600 000 EUR
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	300.000 Euros per partner, not exceeding 100.000 EUR per year Funding rates under Regulation EC 651/2014 shall be respected in case of state aid. Maximum 2 Latvian partners per proposal
Eligibility of partners	Only the following **legal persons** are eligible: 1) Research institutions registered in the Latvian Registry of Scientific Institutions, e.g. - Research Institutes - Universities And must have the status of Research and knowledge dissemination organization (Regulation EC 651/2014) 2) Business enterprises entered into the Latvian Commercial registry as companies, assumed they are eligible to do the specific research and have specific capacity and resources to do the research in Latvia and have their main activity in Latvia. Limitations of EU legislation apply (Regulation 651/2014) together with financial reporting requirements, in this case it is state aid. Two previous statements with sworn auditor's approval should be provided and they must reflect the correspondence to the regulation as well as prove the evidence of previous scientific activity and presence of capacity. Enterprises not having closed two annual financial periods are not eligible. Latvia allows max 2 Latvian partners per proposal, they must be fully independent on legal, financial and personnel basis.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	• Personnel costs incl. taxes; • Consumables; • Subcontracts (up to 25% of direct costs), needs detailed justification, includes all external services, project core activities cannot be subcontracted; • Equipment (only depreciation costs during project directly attributable to project tasks); • Replaceable and fully consumable during project elements of equipment (e.g. electrodes); Travels (according to travel plan); Indirect costs (up to 25% of direct costs excluding subcontracting).

Submission of the proposal at the national level	Not during the application phase. The proposal shall be attached to the request for funding in case the proposal is selected for funding
Submission of other information at the national level	Applicants for State aid must send before the call deadline (both 1st and 2nd stages) to the e-mail address lzp@lzp.gov.lv, stating the acronym and the title of the project, applicant name and registration number in Latvia, the following document: a certification that the applying legal person does not correspond to the criteria laid down in laws and regulations to be subject to insolvency proceedings at the request of the creditor. It must be electronically signed by valid legal representative (s). Upon request applicants for State aid must provide all requested documents to evaluate the financial situation and financial viability. Undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for funding. (Regulation 651/2014) In case of State aid, the undertakings are assessed for eligibility at each of the application stages and at the conclusion and during execution of the contract with LCS for project funding. If the eligibility criteria are not fulfilled, project funding cannot be approved or continued.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Annual or in some cases half-annual financial and scientific reporting is mandatory. Final audit according to the LCS regulations.
Further guidance	Support is provided according to Provisions Nr 259, 26.05.2015 of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers (http://likumi.lv/ta/id/274671-atbalsta-pieskirsanas-kartiba-dalibaistarptautiskas-sadarbibas-programmas-petniecibas-un-tehnologiju-joma) These provisions should be respected without exceptions. The maximum rates should respect the Provisions. The requirements in the provisions to specific applicant groups must be respected. LCS cannot fund implementation support, nor training activities. LCS is not funding any activity beyond experimental development. LCS is funding only research. LCS funding can be operated only via a Latvian bank account. To receive funding by LCS, Consortium agreement duly signed should be presented. Application for the state aid must be submitted before the start of the project which is stated in the consortium agreement. Enterprises shall provide audited statements of 2 previous closed financial periods on request.

Country	Lithuania
Funding organisation	Lietuvos mokslo taryba (LMT) -Research Council of Lithuania
National contact person	Živilė Ruželė, Tel.: +37 067 614383 E-mail: zivile.ruzele@lmt.lt
Funding commitment	300 000 Eur
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	1-2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Within a single project proposal, the maximum funding can be up to EUR 150 000 – for a mere consortium partner; up to EUR 200 000 – for a coordinator or 2 eligible mere partners in a consortium; up to EUR 250 000 – for a coordinator and 1 eligible mere partner in a consortium
Eligibility of partners	Eligible for funding institutions are Lithuanian research and higher education institutions that are included in the Register of Education and Research institutions, public healthcare institutions, academy of science mentioned in the state Law on Science and Studies, other state public institutions such as National libraries, archives, museums. Beneficiary institution (grant holder) manages the state budget funds allocated to the project following the rules stated in the legal acts, as well as representing the project partners (if applicable 'project partner' means public or private legal entity that, together with the eligible institution, created the conditions for project implementation). Principal investigator (PI) must hold a PhD degree. The beneficiary institution is responsible for employing the Principal Investigator for the duration of the project. The PI's workload must be at least 20 hours per month, multiplied by the total number of months of the project's duration. Personnel costs must be calculated using the hourly rates approved by the Chairman of the Research Council of Lithuania. All other general rules for the competitive funding administered by the Research Council of Lithuania apply: https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/0a8bead0577611e9975f9c35aedfe438/asr
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Only costs generated during the lifetime of the project, related to project are eligible: staff, travel, consumables, subcon-tracts, contractual research, consultancy, equipment and instruments, dissemination of results, data handling and analysis, overheads (up to 20 % from direct costs).
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Submission of the proposal at the national level is not required at the application stage.
Submission of other information at the national level	Following a positive funding decision, the grant-signing institution and the Principal Investigator (PI) must complete and submit a national document (template available [at this link]) containing the following information: • A more detailed planned budget • Foreseen dissemination and communication activities • Expected project outputs and contributions from the granted research team (e.g., scientific publications, patents, etc.)
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Quarterly and yearly financial reports and two (2) scientific reports (mid-term and final) are required.
Further guidance	For any information, please refer to the responsible contact person. All information about the call is published on LMT website under Calls webpage.

	General information for applicants submitting proposals to European Partnerships calls can be found here.

Country	Norway
Funding organisation	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
National contact person	Henrietta Blankson hbl@rcn.no + 47 922 33 762
Funding commitment	600 000 EUR Depending on the quality and number of eligible projects, available funding may be increased by up to 25 % to fund additional projects on the ranking list.
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	For a single project, the maximum grant awarded can be up to 300 000 EUR. If the Norwegian participant has a coordinator role, maximum budget can be raised up to 400.000 EUR. For funded projects, the contractual budget will be in NOK using the exchange rate (European Central Bank) from the pre-proposal deadline.
Eligibility of partners	Norwegian universities, university colleges, hospitals, research institutes, public sector, user organisations, NGOs, SME and other private industry. The Research Council cannot award support to an enterprise that is defined as an "undertaking in difficulty" under the state aid rules (see the "Definition of 'undertaking in difficulty" on our website). "Enkeltpersonforetak", that is Norwegian companies with sole proprietorship, cannot participate as coordinator. Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) are not eligible partners in this call.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Payroll expenses, procurement of R&D services, consumables, network measures. The RCN research project budget rules should be followed, see Budget. PhD fellowships are not eligible within the national funding. For postdoctoral fellowships, duration of the support is limited to a minimum of three years and a maximum of four years. The overhead costs are included in the rates for personnel. SME or other industrial partner is funded with up to 50 % of their eligible project costs. Se details in the State aid rules, see State aid
Submission of the proposal at the national level	If the proposal is granted, information about national project registration will be given.
Submission of other information at the national level	On request in case of a positive funding recommendation.

Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	On request in case of a positive funding recommendation.
Further guidance	Requirements and guidelines for registration and disclosure of medical and health-related studies involving human participants must be followed, please see Requirements and guidelines for registration and disclosure of medical and health-related studies involving human participants

Country	Poland
Funding organisation	National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
National contact person	Magdalena Krzystyniak M: +48 571 226 675 era4health@ncbr.gov.pl
Funding commitment	1 250 000 €
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	1 - 5
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum 400 000 € per project, regardless of the number of Polish partners in the project consortium
Eligibility of partners	**Following entities are eligible to apply:** • Enterprises[13] - Micro, Small, Medium and Large, • Research organisations[14], • Groups of entities composed of at least two enterprises, • Groups of entities composed of at least one research organisation and at least one enterprise, • Group of entities composed of at least two research organisations. Entities must be established as a legal person[15] and must conduct business, R&D activity or other activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland, confirmed by an entry into the relevant register[16]. For a group of entities to participate as an Applicant in the call, it must formally exist on the date the pre-proposal is submitted. This existence must be evidenced by an agreement made by the members - at least conditionally - to create the group of entities (consortium). Please note that group of entities counts as at least two project partners from Poland (and it meets the limit on the number of participants from the same country, please refer to call text for details). For enterprises it is strongly advised to state in the pre-proposal application form the KRS number of the enterprise and the size of the enterprise (micro/small, medium, large).
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	**The eligible costs shall be the following:** • **<u>For research organisations</u>:** 1. **personnel costs** 2. **consumables** 3. **equipment**

[13]Defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (hereinafter referred to as "Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014");
[14]Defined in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014;
[15]Legal person - an entity that is capable of having and amending legal rights and obligations within a certain legal system, in particular to enter into contracts, sue and be sued, excluding natural persons;
[16]If applicable. Does not apply to legal persons that are not obliged to register in a relevant Polish official register according to Polish law.

4. **travel**
5. **other direct costs**
6. **subcontracting** – used exclusively for the research activity; this cost category shall not exceed 70% of all eligible costs of a project
7. **additional overheads** – incurred indirectly as a result of the research project. That costs should account 25% of all eligible direct costs and are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs for research organizations, excluding subcontracting (6); It means 7=(1+2+3+4+5)x25%.

- **<u>For enterprises</u>**:
  1. **personnel costs**
  2. **equipment**
  3. **other direct costs –** please refer to cost eligibility guide (przewodnik kwalifikowalności kosztów) for more details
  4. **subcontracting** – used exclusively for the research activity; this cost category shall not exceed 70% of all eligible costs of a project
  5. **additional overheads** – incurred indirectly as a result of the research project. That costs for enterprises include costs related to consumables, travel and other direct costs. Additional overheads costs should account 20% of eligible direct project costs and are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs; It means 5=(1+2+3+4)x20%.

	Large Enterprises	**Medium Enterprises**	**Small Enterprises**	**Research organizations**
Fundamental/Basic Research	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
Industrial/Applied Research	Up to 50 + 5/15/25 (max 75 %)	Up to 50 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)	Up to 50 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 80 %)	Up to 100%
Experimental Development	Up to 25 + 5/15/25 (max 50 %)	Up to 25 + 10 + 5/15/25 (max 60 %)	Up to 25 + 20 + 5/15/25 (max 70 %)	Up to 100 %

In any case only Industrial/Appiled Research and Experimental Development are eligible for funding. Other activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) shall not be included into separate tasks.

Funding quotas for Polish participants may reach up to 100% for universities and research organisations. For enterprises, the quota will be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account company size and the type of research and development activity, pursuant to Section 2 of the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development (Journal of Laws 2020, item 1456).

If an enterprise applies individually at the national level (i.e. there is no Polish group of entities or group of enterprises), the state aid intensity for industrial

	research and experimental development shall not be increased on the basis of "effective cooperation" between enterprises or between enterprises and research organisations. **For more details on eligible costs, applicants are advised to check cost eligibility guide (przewodnik kwalifikowalności kosztów) in the call announcement on NCBR webpage.**
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Participants from Poland will be informed and invited to submit a national application once the international evaluation and the ranking list have been established. Only projects recommended for funding will be asked to submit a national application form (NAF). If more than one Polish entity participates in the project, the national application must be submitted jointly by a consortium (group of entities) comprising Polish entities only.
Submission of other information at the national level	All entities invited to submit Polish full proposal are obliged to use European Central Bank's exchange rate in force on the day the call is opened.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Annual scientific reports are obligatory.
Further guidance	Sample documents are available at: https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/wniosek-krajowy We encourage you to learn about and use our "PartFinder" (Partner Search Tool), which allows you to match science and industry entities from around the World with each other. The search engine is available at: https://partfinder.ncbr.gov.pl/ <u>Relevant documents</u> All proposals must be aligned with national regulations, inter alia: • The Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science; • The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development; • The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, which is in line with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation); • The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 17 September 2010 on the detailed mode of performance of tasks of the National Centre for Research and Development.

Country	Portugal
Funding organisation	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)
National contact person	Rita Cavaleiro Joana Pinheiro ERA4Health@fct.pt
Funding commitment	500 000,00 €
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2-3 proposals
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	• The maximum amount of funding to be requested to FCT by a consortium with **Portuguese coordination** is 250 000,00 €. The maximum amount of funding to be requested to FCT by a consortium with **Portuguese participation** is 150 000,00 €. • If more than one Portuguese applicant participating in the **same international consortium** applies for funding by FCT, the **combined funding** demanded by all the Portuguese applicants **may not exceed the maximum financial threshold for proposals with a Portuguese Coordinator** (250 000,00 €) or with a Portuguese **Partner** (150 000,00 €). Portuguese Coordinator and/or Partner(s) in the same international consortium will therefore have to share the funding that will be granted by FCT. • For information on funding rates, see no. 2 of article 7 of FCT Regulation.
Eligibility of partners	• For information on the type of beneficiaries eligible for FCT funding under this call, see article 3 of FCT Regulation. • For information on the criteria of beneficiaries' eligibility and projects' eligibility, please consult articles 5 and 6 of FCT Regulation
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	• For the purposes of defining the budget, the terms defined in article 8 of FCT Regulation apply to **eligible expenses** and in article 9 to **non-eligible expenses**. • Excluded from the range of eligible expenses are the **salaries and other remuneration supplements** of teachers, researchers and other staff with a previously established indefinite contract with the Public Administration. • Expenditure on **adapting buildings and facilities** is limited to a maximum of 10% of the project's total eligible expenses. • The **project's indirect costs** are based on the application of a flat rate of 25% of the direct eligible costs. • In accordance with no. 1 of article 7 of the FCT Regulation, the funding to be granted to proposals requesting funding from FCT under this call is non-reimbursable and is based on **real costs**. As such it must be justified through invoices paid or other accounting documents of similar probationary value, under the terms of no. 5 of article 8 of FCT Regulation.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	• Yes, but only for full proposals selected for funding.

Submission of other information at the national level	**Statement of Commitment:** • Within 10 working days after the deadline for submitting the pre-proposal, a Statement of Commitment duly signed by the Researcher in Charge (partner and/or coordinators) and by the legal representant of the Portuguese Proposing Institution must be sent to ERA4Health@fct.pt. • The stamp or white seal of the Portuguese Proposing Institution will not be required on a digitally signed Statement of Commitment. • Portuguese applicants of transnational consortia that do not apply for funding from FCT do not need to submit the Statement of Commitment to FCT.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	• For purposes of follow-up and final assessment, beneficiaries submit annual scientific progress report(s) and one final scientific report through the FCT, I.P. portal.
Further guidance	• **Applications requesting funding from FCT under this call will be subject to** Regulation on projects funded solely by national funds**, published in Regulation No. 999/2016, in its current wording, that is, as amended and republished by Regulation No. 5/2024 of 3 January, and corrected by Rectification Statement No. 366/2024/2, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, No. 100, of 23 May 2024, and by all other applicable national and European Union legislation.** • The percentage of time dedicated to transnational projects will **not** be added to the percentage of time dedicated to existing national projects.

Country	Romania
Funding organisation	Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding
National contact person	Mihaela Manole E-mail: mihaela.manole@uefiscdi.ro Phone: +40 21 302 38 63 Nicoleta Dumitrache E-mail: nicoleta.dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro Phone: +40 21 302 38 86
Funding commitment	1.000.000 euro
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	4-5
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Funding rates vary in accordance with state aid legislation. For more information : https://uefiscdi.ro/pachet-de-informatii-suprogramul-3-2-orizont-2020 250.000 euro for all Romanian partners in case a Romanian institution is the Coordinator; 200.000 for all Romanian partners in case a Romanian institution is not the Coordinator.
Eligibility of partners	Eligible entities for funding are universities, public institutions, R&D national institutions, joint-stock companies, SME's and Large companies, NGOs (associations, foundations, etc.), others.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	a. Staff costs; b. Logistics expenses - Capital expenditure; - Expenditure on stocks - supplies and inventory items; - Expenditure on services performed by third parties cannot exceed 25 % of the funding from the public budget. The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work; c. Travel expenses; d. Overhead (indirect costs) is calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, logistics costs (excluding capital costs and cost for subcontracting) and travel expenses. Indirect costs will not exceed 20 % of direct costs.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	NO
Submission of other information at the national level	NO
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	NO
Further guidance	Maximum funding percentages:

Type of research	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Universities and research organisations
Fundamental/Basic Research	100%	100%	100%	100%
Industrial/Applied Research	Up to 50+15 (max 65%)	Up to 60+15 (max 75%)	Up to 70+10 (max 85%)	100%
Experimental development	Up to 25+15 (max 40%)	Up to 35+15 (max 50%)	Up to 40+15 (max 65%)	100%

Country	Slovakia
Funding organisation	Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
National contact person	Katarina Bibova katarina.bibova@urad.sav.sk
Funding commitment	240.000€
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 120.000€ per project
Eligibility of partners	Only research Institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences are eligible organisations for funding by SAS (up to 100%). 1. The Slovak principal investigator must have a job contract for more than 50% working hours in the SAS organization for which the project proposal or participation in the project proposal is submitted. 2. Other researchers, except for doctoral students, must have a working relationship with the SAS organization. 3. Each researcher of the Slovak partner research team of a project consortium (other than the Slovak Principal Investigator) must have a job contract with or a fellowship with the Slovak Principal Investigator, lasting until the end of the project or beyond.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Total eligible costs = Direct + Indirect costs (DC + IC) Direct costs (DC): Personnel (max. 15% of DC), Consumables and Travel costs Indirect costs (IC, Overheads): max. 20 % of DC. Limitations and specifications are available: (https://oms.sav.sk/wp-content/uploads/Financne-pravidla-na-udelovanie-grantov-SAV-na-medzinarodne-vyskumne-projekty-platne-na-vyzvy-zverejnene-od-1.12.2023.pdf)
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Submission of the proposal at the national level will be required once the international evaluation has taken place and the ranking list has been endorsed by the Joint Call Steering Committee (CSC). The Slovak partner will be informed about recommendation for funding by the project consortium coordinator and invited by SAS to submit the national proposal form (MVTS form). The Presidium of SAS makes the final decision concerning the approval of funding (according to internal rules of SAS).
Submission of other information at the national level	no
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Annual financial reporting
Further guidance	

Country	Slovakia
Funding organisation	Centrum vedecko-technických informácií Slovenskej republiky
National contact person	Erika Jankajová, Contact Point EU Missions / European Partnerships Coordinator email: erika.jankajova@cvtisr.sk, tel.: +421 904 859 228 Magdaléna Švorcová, European Partnerships Coordinator email: magdalena.svorcova@cvtisr.sk, tel.: +421 917 733 493
Funding commitment	800 000 EUR
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2 – 4
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	The maximum funding amount per Slovak partner in international projects is 400 000 EUR. However, the maximum amount is 500 000 EUR per partner for projects with a Slovak coordinator or in case of submitting a patent proposal. The maximum total funding for all Slovak partners in a single project (with two or more Slovak partners) is 800 000 EUR. The minimum funding amount is 150 000 EUR per partner.
Eligibility of partners	Legal entities established in the Slovak Republic, such as public or private research and academic institutions, higher education institutions, SMEs, public sector entities, and other relevant organizations actively involved in research, development, and innovation. • Research institutions (e.g. the Slovak Academy of Sciences and its institutes) • Academic sector (e.g. universities and higher education institutions) • Public administration bodies and organizations established by them, including local and regional government authorities • Non-governmental non-profit organizations • Cluster organizations • Private sector entities (entrepreneurial/business sector)
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	• Personnel costs (salaries of researchers, technicians and other support staff employed by the beneficiary, to the extent that they are directly involved in the project, salaries of project management personnel and other essential positions necessary for the implementation and coordination of the project; • Costs of instruments and equipment; • Costs for contract research, technical knowledge and patents purchased or licensed from external sources under market conditions, as well as costs for consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project. General eligibility rule: All expenditures incurred by Slovak project participants must comply with: • Programme Slovakia, specifically Priority 1P1 Science, Research and Innovation, Specific objective RSO1.1: Development and

	enhancement of research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies, Measure 1.1.3: Support for international cooperation in the field of research, development and innovation • The provisions of the State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia; • Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Submission of pre-proposal and full proposal to the ERA4Health JTC8 Call Secretariat only.
Submission of other information at the national level	After having been informed about the international funding decision, CVTI SR will require also submission of separate application for national funding into the national submission platform. The final formal funding decision is made by CVTI SR and only after the project was recommended for funding by the Partnership.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Yes, yearly.
Further guidance	All Slovak applicants are strongly advised to contact the CVTI SR's contact points before submitting their proposals. The proposed project activities must be in line with the priorities defined in the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), which serves as the strategic framework for research, development and innovation investments in Slovakia. All Slovak entities must have their contractual financial matters settled with CVTI SR by the end of 2029. Relevant national documents: Programme Slovakia, Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Slovak Republic 2021-2027 (SK RIS3 2021+), State Aid Scheme to Support Partnerships in the Field of Research, Development and Innovation under the Programme Slovakia. Useful links: Programme Slovakia SK RIS3 2021+ Strategy for Financing the ERDF, ESF+, CF, FST, and ENRAF 2021–2027

<table>
<tr><td>Country</td><td>Spain</td></tr>
<tr><td>Funding organisation</td><td>Agencia Estatal de Investigación</td></tr>
<tr><td>National contact person</td><td>Ana Revilla

Era4Health@aei.gob.es</td></tr>
<tr><td>Funding commitment</td><td>800.000 €</td></tr>
<tr><td>Anticipated number of fundable proposals</td><td>4-5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner</td><td>The following funding limits for a three-year project are considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible.

Two partners per project asking to the AEI are allowed only if one of them is the coordinator of the international proposal. The budget distribution in this case should be balanced.

<table>
<tr><th>Maximum funding per project</th><th>CD (€)*</th><th>CI (25%) (€)*</th><th>TOTAL (€)*</th></tr>
<tr><td>One AEI applicant (partner)</td><td>140.000</td><td>35.000</td><td>175.000</td></tr>
<tr><td>One AEI applicant – (coordinator)</td><td>220.000</td><td>55.000</td><td>275.000</td></tr>
<tr><td>One coordinator and one applicant- (balanced budgets)</td><td>260.000</td><td>65.000</td><td>325.000</td></tr>
<tr><td>Additional funding for substantial experimental tasks (per project)</td><td>30.000</td><td>7.500</td><td>37.500</td></tr>
</table>
* The direct costs must be rounded to the thousands in the application.
Indirect costs are 25% of direct costs requested.

Only excellent proposals with exclusively RDI activities will be funded by the AEI. Entire communication work packages, without research associated, are not eligible costs for AEI.

The final funding will take into account the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration and the financial resources available.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Eligibility of partners</td><td>Eligibility for organizations (please read carefully)

The AEI will fund non-profit research organizations (such as universities, research centres, technological centres and other private non-profit institutions performing RDI activities in Spain). They must have been previously beneficiaries of any of the AEI calls, and they must ensure contractual relationship with the Principal Investigator (PI) during the whole duration of the project.

Be aware that applicants from the Accredited Health Research Institutes (IIS), hospitals, primary health care or public health administration of the</td></tr>
</table>

Spanish National Health System (SNS) and CIBER must apply for funding to the Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), also participating in this call.

After the evaluation process and based on their budgetary availability and requested funding of selected projects, AEI and ISCIII reserve the right to exchange applicants to each other to optimize the available funds, provided the respective eligibility rules are met.

IMPORTANT: Spanish legal entities which are part of mixed centres will be considered as a unique beneficiary, and thus the maximum funding should not exceed the limits per proposal established above.

Although not fundable by the AEI, the private sector is encouraged to participate in consortia with Spanish academic groups, using their own funds or applying to national or regional calls by CDTI or regional innovation agencies. This is especially encouraged when there are for profit companies from other countries in the consortium or for projects coordinated by Spanish PIs.

Eligibility criteria for PIs

The Spanish Principal Investigators (PIs) must hold a PhD degree.

PIs must be eligible according to the PCI general requirements of the corresponding PCI call (read PCI2025_2 call as an example) and must have experience as investigators (not necessarily as PIs) in projects funded by any of the National Plans of I+D+i from 2013 onwards, ERC Grants, European Framework Programmes or other relevant national or international programmes.

Incompatibilities (these must be considered when participating in different ERA-Nets, partnerships or other international initiatives funded by PCI):

- PIs will not be eligible for funding if they apply as PIs to more than one proposal in this transnational joint call (including those requesting to the ISCIII), to more than one proposal in the same Spanish PCI call and/or to PCI calls of consecutive years.
- If the same PI submits two or more proposals to the present call, all but one will be declared ineligible, without the possibility of future changes. Changing PI will not be allowed.
- PI granted the previous year with a PCI will be declared ineligible, without the possibility of changing the PI.
- PIs must remain unchanged between the pre and full proposal of this transnational joint call, and the national PCI call.
- The AEI will avoid double funding and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded through other national or EU calls.

Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	○ Please, **consult "*Artículo 8. Conceptos financiables*"**, especially letter **a) Costes de Personal**, in PCI2025_2 call resolution as a reference, since eligible costs will be similar. ○ Contracts for supporting personnel (gross remuneration and social security contributions) related to the implementation of the funded project are eligible costs. The contract must specify the percentage of the hired person's time dedicated to the project. The costs of permanent staff linked to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible costs. ○ Direct costs such as current costs, disposable materials, travelling expenses, coordination costs, and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities are eligible. ○ Indirect costs (overheads) are eligible costs (25% of total direct costs, including subcontracting). ○ Subcontracting should not exceed 25% of total requested budget. ○ Clinical trials are eligible up to phase 1, with a maximum of 50% of the total budget.
Submission of the proposal at the national level **IMPORTANT and NEW!**	**Funding Programme:** The framework for this funding action is the "Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica, Técnica e Innovación 2024-2027". On a national level, the call will be managed by the "Subdivisión de Programas Científico-Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia (STRAN)) of the AEI. **Instrument for funding** The instrument for funding the Spanish groups is the call for "Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional (PCI)". Please, read carefully PCI2025_2 call resolution as an example. **Submission of the pre and full proposal at the national level:** PIs and beneficiaries are strongly encouraged to check eligibility before submitting a pre-proposal, since no changes will be accepted afterwords. No PI or beneficiary changes will be accepted between pre and full proposal as well as during the national call phase. **Submission of proposals at the AEI application website** 1) Within one week after the pre-proposal submission in the partnership website, the Spanish PI must ALSO submit a copy of the international joint pre-proposal at the new AEI application website. 2) Maximum one week after the deadline of the call, the Spanish PI must send duly signed the "Declaración Responsable"* to era4health@aei.gob.es. *This document can also be downloaded from the AEI application website.

	Applicants should include both the PI's full name (with both surnames, if applicable) and the **full legal name of their institution** as it is stated in the Sistema de Entidades (SISEN).
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Financial and scientific reports are required as indicated in the national PCI2025_2 call resolution since will be similar.
Further guidance	**Acknowledgement:** Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge funding by the "Agencia Estatal de Investigación" according to AEI's web guidelines. Beneficiaries are obliged by these requirements and those of the international call. **Data Protection:** By submitting a grant application, the applicants consent to communication of the data contained in the application to other public administrations, with the aim of further processing of the data for historical, statistical or scientific purposes, within the framework of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on Personal Data.

Country	SPAIN
Funding organisation	Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA)
National contact person	Alicia Milano Curto E-mail: ep.fps@juntadeandalucia.es Tel: +34 955 04 04 50
Funding commitment	250.000 €
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	1-2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	125.000€ , 250.000 € if coordinator (including 21% indirect costs)
Eligibility of partners	Eligible organisation must be Andalusian Non-profit entities registered as Agents of the Andalusian Knowledge System (Registro de Agentes Andaluces del Conocimiento) with research and innovation activity in Biomedicine and Health Sciences, ie: Research managing foundations of the Andalusian Public Health System. Eligibility criteria established in Orden de 10 de agosto de 2023 de la Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía. • Principal investigators must be linked through a civil servant, statutory or labour relationship with the applicant or performing centre. For Health Research Institutes (Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria, IIS), the link may be with any of the public or private law entities that are part of the IIS provided that the entity meets all the specific requirements determined in each action, and, in any case, be personnel assigned to the IIS. • More than one partner from Andalusia may participate in the same project • A PI can only participate in one application per call. • For receiving regional funding, the final funding decision issued by the corresponding program's decision-making body must be accredited.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	A) **Goods and services**: consumables, bibliographic material, equipment rentals, software licenses and external services. B) **Personnel costs**: specifically hired for the project, including salaries, employer Social Security contributions, legally established compensation and other duly justified expenses derived. C) **Travel, accommodation and subsistence** according to the maximum amounts of compensation for service established in Decree 54/1989, of March 21, on compensation for service of the Junta de Andalucía, exclusively for people who are part of the research group or hired under the funded project. Exceptionally, any expense outside these amounts, or for people other than those listed before, must be authorised by the granting body.

	D) **Registration fees for congresses or conferences** for the presentation and dissemination of the results. Publication costs E) **Other expenses** duly justified and necessary for carrying out the project. F) **Indirect costs** 21% g) **Subcontracting costs**: cannot exceed 50% of the funding and need prior authorization from the granting body. Nor Scientific aspects nor the management of the project should be subcontracted. The following are not considered eligible expenses • Equipment or Equipment repair and maintenance • Items or amounts that, after analysis, are not considered justified • Amounts paid to persons participating in the project, except for expenses necessary for special attention to patients that involve compensation for their participation in the project not derived from an employment relationship. The sum of the funding or income received for the same purpose may in no case exceed the cost of the funded activity.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	No
Submission of other information at the national level	Additionally, for projects involving invasive procedures on human beings, their biological material and/or clinical data, a favourable report or a document accrediting the request for its evaluation by the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee must be provided. The documents to be provided are detailed in section 14 of the Orden de 10 de agosto de 2023.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Beneficiaries must submit financial and scientific reports to Consejería de Salud y Consumo de la Junta de Andalucía (please see section 22.b) 3º and 25.f) 1º Orden de 10 de agosto de 2023)
Further guidance	The projects must respect the fundamental principles established in national and international declarations, protocols and conventions on research ethics, as well as respect the requirements established in national and regional legislation in the field of biomedical research, development and innovation, personal data protection and bioethics. When the results are not susceptible to protection of industrial or intellectual property rights, the scientific publications resulting from the funding granted must be made available in open access, in accordance with article 37 of Law 14/2011, of June 1.

Country	SPAIN
Funding organisation	SEKUENS – FICYT
National contact person	María González – maria.gonzalez@ficyt.es Ana Elena Fernández – anae@sekuens.es
Funding commitment	150.000 € *The indicative call budget could be increased by the same amount, provided that surplus funds are available from other SEKUENS calls for similar purposes when the decision is made.*
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	1-2
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Maximum: €150.000 per partner and per project Maximum project duration: 36 months **Funding rates: 100%**
Eligibility of partners	**Non-profit entities, not engaged in economic activity,** with research and innovation activity in **Biomedicine and Health Sciences**, such as: • University of Oviedo • Hospitals and primary health care centers of the Asturias Health System • Accredited Health Research Institutes located in Asturias, or the foundation in charge of managing the research of these Institutes • Public or Private Research and Technology Organisations located in Asturias
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	**Eligible costs include:** Costs must be directly related to the project: G) Personnel costs: New researchers and/or technicians hired specifically for the project Salaries, employer Social Security contributions, legally established compensation and other duly justified expenses. H) Materials and supplies I) Contractual research, knowledge, patents and consultancy services. Subcontracting costs up to 50% of the budget. J) Other direct costs: Duly justified and necessary for carrying out the project, such as: a. Auditing costs b. Travel, accommodation and subsistence Exclusively for members of the research group or project-hired staff. According to applicable regional regulations up to 8.000€ c. Registration fees for congresses or conferences related to the presentation and dissemination of project results

	Indirect costs: Up to 15% of eligible personnel costs **Note:** Equipment costs are **not eligible** under this call. **Minimum project eligible budget**: 100.000€; Recommended: 125.000€ .
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Applicants are encouraged to contact SEKUENS-FICYT prior to submission in order to receive instructions for the submission at the regional level.
Submission of other information at the national level	Applicants will be required to submmit preliminary information in advanced to SEKUENS-FICYT in order to verify eligibility at all the stages of the procedure.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Beneficiaries will be required to submit final financial and scientific reports to SEKUENS-FICYT at the regional level.
Further guidance	Activities must fall under industrial/applied research or experimental development (TRL 3–8) Project activities cannot start before submission of the regional application The projects granted by SEKUENS must be aligned with at least one research area of those described in the **Smart Specialization Strategy of Asturias (S3),** particularly within the domains of **Active and Healthy Ageing and Sustainable Agro-Food Systems.** These areas include priorities such as the promotion of population health, the development of personalized nutrition strategies, and the prevention of chronic diseases like obesity. More information is available at: https://www.idepa.es/innovacion/s3-asturias/s3-asturias-2021-2027 **Applicants are limited to submitting 1 proposal per principal investigator.**

Country	Spain
Funding organisation	Institute of Health Carlos III (Instituto de Salud Carlos III- ISCIII)
National contact person	**Candi Sánchez Barco** cbarco@isciii.es
Funding commitment	National programme: The Strategic Action in Health (Strategic Lines of Health Research 2024–2027, hereinafter **AES 2026**) **600.000 €** (pending of approval of Spanish State Budget)
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2-3
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	**Maximum funding from ISCIII per awarded Spanish project:** If a Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII **IS NOT** the Coordinator of the transnational project: • **220.000€** (overheads included), if there is only one Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII in the proposal. • **275.000€** (overheads included), if there are two Spanish Partners requesting funding to the ISCIII in the proposal. If a Spanish Partner requesting funding to the ISCIII **IS** the Coordinator of the transnational project: • **300.000€** (overheads included), if there is only one Spanish Partner in the proposal, acting as a coordinator. • **400.000€** (overheads included), if there is one Spanish Partner in addition to the Spanish Coordinator in the proposal, both requesting funding to the ISCIII. Overheads according to AES 2026: 25% **Projects' duration**: from 24 months to 36 months The level of funding will take into account the evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration, the participation of the primary health care and the financial resources available.
Eligibility of partners	A maximum of two partners requesting funding from ISCIII may participate in the same project proposal. **Eligible Institutions:** • **Accredited Health Research Institutes (Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria acreditados, IIS).** Accredited according to the RD 279/2016 (These institutions may manage research via a foundation regulated according with the Spanish Act 50/ 2002, of December 26th). See the list of IIS in this link. • Hospitals, primary health care or public health administration of the Spanish **National Health System (SNS).** These institutions may manage research via a foundation regulated in accordance to the Spanish Act 50/2002, of December 26th (a copy of the foundation's statutes may be submitted).

	• **CIBER:** team members applying to the call must be from at least two groups belonging to CIBER in two different home institutions and one of these two should be a hospital, primary health care or public health administration of the Spanish National Health System (SNS) or Accredited Health Research Institutes (Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria acreditados, IIS). Please contact Cristina Rodríguez (cristina.rodriguez@ciberisciii.es) for more information related to CIBER's eligibility. • Applicants not related with the National Health System from non-profit research organizations such as universities, OPIs, technological centres and other private non-profit institutions performing RDI activities in Spain **need to apply for funding to the Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)**, following their eligibility criteria. It is highly recommended to this type of members to integrate in their consortium other Spanish clinical partner (IIS/SNS/CIBER) eligible for funding by ISCIII. **NOT eligible institutions:** - Those declared by **AES 2026** as ineligible to receive funds by ISCIII.
Additional clause regarding available grant	After the evaluation process and based on their budgetary availability and requested funding of selected projects, AEI and ISCIII may exchange applicants to each other in order to optimize the available funds, provided the respective eligibility rules are met.
Eligibility of PI and team members	• Principal Investigators (PI) shall be required to hold a **PhD degree**. • Principal Investigators (PI) can only participate in one project proposal per call. • Principal Investigators (PIs) belonging to an **Accredited Health Research Institutes (IIS)** could apply **only from the IIS.** • The Principal Investigator (PI) and all members of the research group must belong to the eligible institutions in the call. • Only one PI per beneficiary institution may be funded within the same proposal. • PIs that has an ongoing International Collaboration (PCIN) project of the same initiative and purpose that this call and that the project has an ending date after the 31st December 2026 will not be able to apply for this call. This incompatibility will affect only to the PI. And this incompatibility will not apply in the case that the PI participate as coordinator in the new application or in the ongoing project.

	• For additional incompatibilities please review AES 2026. **Excluded personnel as Principal Investigator (PI):** • Those undergoing a postgraduate training in Health Specialization (MIR, EIR, FIR, QIR, BIR, PIR, RFIR). • Those undergoing research training (e.g. PhD students, or "Río Hortega" contracts). • Those undergoing postdoctoral training (e.g. "Sara Borrell" or "Juan de la Cierva" contracts). • Researchers contracted by a RICORs and platforms funded by ISCIII.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	• **Personnel costs:** - Personnel costs will be eligible for contracts with the needed professional category (superior technician, BSc (grado), MSc (máster), PhD (doctor) for the project development accordingly to the published salary tables in ISCIII's webpage / "**AES 2026**. - Contracts for PhD students will be made in the framework of National Subprogramme for Training (scholarships are not eligible). - Personnel costs will be eligible for a maximum of **36 person-months** in total, across all personnel contracts in the project. - Personnel costs will NOT be eligible when they correspond to civil servants or the equivalent personnel (as specified in the Art. 3.4 of **AES 2026** either employed by the beneficiary entities or belonging to the research team. - Personnel costs will be eligible when corresponding to contracts under the frame of Art. 23bis of Law 14/2011, 1st June, following the specifications established in **AES 2026**. • **Other eligible costs:** Current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses, complementary expenses (use of central and general research support services of the beneficiary entity), publication and dissemination of results and other costs as included in **AES 2026** that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities. • **Overheads,** according to **AES 2026** (25%) • **Double funding** of the same concept is not allowed. • National applications will be required by ISCIII.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Due to administrative and legal regulations, the Institute of Health Carlos III establishes the **end of October 2026** (tentative

	date) as the national deadline for the decision on fundable project consortia which includes Spanish partners to be funded by ISCIII, which must present their national application in the period stated in **AES 2026** (probably September/October 2026). Any concerned applicant in a proposal for which no final decision has been made by the deadline **end of October 2026** (tentative date) of could be declared not fundable by ISCIII.
Submission of other information at the national level	As specified by **AES 2026**
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	As specified by ISCIII's instructions (please check ISCIII's webpage).
Submission of a pre-eligibility document needed at national level	In order to expedite the eligibility check process, it is mandatory that all the applicants submit the CVA-ISCIII of the PI. This document shall be submitted by the PI by electronic email before the proposal submission deadline to: cbarco@isciii.es
Requirements on data and repositories	• Researchers funded by ISCIII must make public the human genomic data, as well as relevant data (phenotype and exposition data) generated inside the funded project and will use open access repositories. Researchers must also make public all the necessary information for the interpretation of these genomic data, including lab protocols, data instruments survey tools. Regarding genomic data it is understood: association of complete genomes (GWAS), matrixes of polymorphism of a single nucleotide (SNP) and sequence of genome, and transcriptomic, metagenomic, epigenomic and gene expression data. The researchers whose projects are funded by ISCIII are recommended to store their scientific data at the "ELIXIR Core Data Resources", or if non-European repositories or data bases are to be used they must be certified by ELIXIR or the US National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). • ISCIII may not fund any project that may require a repository and/or a data base without a plan ensuring sustainability and decommissioning after the end of funding
Requirements for clinical studies	Spanish groups that are involved on the performance of a clinical trial in the proposal, are recommended to include in their team a member from their scientific node of the EU Clinical Trials Network (SCReN or ECRIN-ERIC) or if it does not exist, a member from the personnel of their Clinical Research Supporting Platform of their institutions (UIC).
Use of Research infrastructures and platforms	Researchers funded by ISCIII are encouraged to make use of the resources available through the European Research Infrastructures and the Spanish Platforms funded by ISCIII for supporting the biomedical and health R&I.

Acknowledgements	Any publication, data base, product or event protected with IPR or not, resulting from the granted project must acknowledge "Award no. XX by Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) through "La Acción Estratégica en Salud (Líneas Estratégicas de Investigación en Salud 2024-2027)" 2026 and within the ERA4Health Partnership" even after the end of the project, including other specific acknowledgments that could be requested by ISCIII to the granted project. For more information, please see ISCIII's ROR here.

Country	Taïwan
Funding organisation	National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)
National contact person	Dr. Ching-Mei Tang Email: cmtom@nstc.gov.tw Tel: +886-2-2737-7557
Funding commitment	810 000€
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2-3
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	-The maximum amount per year per project is €90,000.00 (about NTD3,000,000). -The decision regarding the exact amount of the grant is dependent on the result of the NSTC's internal reviews. -The number of grants of every principal investigator must comply with NSTC's regulation of the max number of two international cooperation projects granted by NSTC for the same duration.
Eligibility of partners	All research institutes, universities, hospitals, public organisations in Taiwan endorsed by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) as eligible institutions
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	Including personnel, consumables, hosting expenses for foreign researchers, and travel expenses for international destinations-joint research & overseas studies, for more information please refer to: https://www.nstc.gov.tw/folksonomy/list/f6d5c23c-b3ce-438e-911b-12a705dbac5a?l=ch
Submission of the proposal at the national level	No official national application is needed in the pre-proposal or full proposal phase. But must notify the national contact person in the National Science and Technology Council of your submission to the ERA4Health joint transnational call via email, together with your application as an attachment.
Submission of other information at the national level	-Taiwanese project partners shall submit a proposal to the NSTC for national financing after the project has been selected and approved for funding through the ERA4Health evaluation and selection process. -The proposals are required to be submitted to NSTC for funding as soon as possible as the internal process of the NSTC generally takes 6 months.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	please refer to: https://www.nstc.gov.tw/folksonomy/list/f6d5c23c-b3ce-438e-911b-12a705dbac5a?l=ch
Further guidance	

Country	The Netherlands
Funding organisation	Dutch Research Council (NWO)
National contact persons	Dr. Martijn de Wilde, ERA4Health@nwo.nl , +31 70 3494 410 Dr. Joyce Putters, ERA4Health@nwo.nl , +31 30 6001 399
Funding commitment	€ 2,500,000 in total
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	At least 6
Maximum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	€ 400,000 (= total amount for all Dutch partners per consortium). Dutch applicants can only submit proposals to call topic 1.
Eligibility of partners	An application for funding from NWO may consider the following roles: - National main applicant (mandatory): the applicant who leads the application to NWO and is the foreseen national project leader, in case a project is granted. - National co-applicant (optional): national applicants in addition to the national main applicant with an active role and responsibility in realising the project and requesting funding from NWO. **National main applicants** Researchers may submit an application as a national main applicant if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period*) or a tenure track agreement at one of the following research organisations: - universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS) as referred to in Article 1.8 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act and universities listed in the Policy Rules for Universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands; - university medical centres by which is meant academic hospitals as referred to in Article 1.13 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act; - institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO; - TO2 institutions; - Netherlands Cancer Institute; - the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen; - Naturalis Biodiversity Center; - Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL); - Princess Máxima Center. *Professors employed at a university of applied sciences and researchers employed at a TO2 institute may also submit as a main national applicant provided that they have at least a salaried position for a limited period of time. Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal. It could be the case that the applicant's tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for,

	or that before that date, the applicant's tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project. Such a statement should be submitted in the full proposal stage. The main national applicant employed by a university of applied sciences or TO2 institute whose employment ends before the intended completion date of the project for which the grant is being applied for must also attach such a statement. Applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested. **National co-applicants** Researchers interested to apply as a national co-applicant, i.e. together with a national main applicant, may submit as a national co-applicant if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period*) or a tenure track agreement at one of to the research organisations listed under 'National main applicants' or at other research organisations as referred to in Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 that meet the following cumulative conditions: - be established in the Netherlands; - be a foundation, association or legal entity ("publiekrechtelijke rechtspersoon") governed by public law; - have as its primary goal the independent conduct of its own fundamental research or industrial research or with widely disseminating the results of those activities through teaching, publications or knowledge transfer; - be able to state that the organisation keeps separate accounts with regard to economic/non-economic activities and that undertakings with decisive influence on the organisation do not enjoy preferential access to the organisation's results. Please note**:** Prior to the submission of an application, NWO assesses on the basis of the above-mentioned conditions whether an organisation complies with Article 1.1, paragraph 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and may therefore participate as a national co-applicant. NWO performs this assessment to preclude the granting of prohibited state aid. The organisation of the prospective national co-applicant must provide the following documents no less than 10 working days prior to the submission deadline for pre-proposals (meaning no later than 7 January 2026, 14:00:00 CET) by email to era4health@nwo.nl: - a recent extract from the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce; - the deed of incorporation or current articles of association; - the latest available annual accounts accompanied by an audit statement[17]; [17] Organisations that are not legally obliged to have their annual accounts audited do not need to provide such an auditor's statement. They must however be able to demonstrate that this legal requirement is not applicable to the organisation concerned.

	- the completed form 'Declaration research organisation', available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. Other relevant documentation may be added. NWO may request additional information if the above documents are not sufficiently conclusive to determine whether the organisation may act as a national co-applicant. If the organisation of the prospective national co-applicant does not submit the necessary documents for this assessment in time, NWO cannot accept the organisation as a national co-applicant. If the addition of new co-applicants to the consortium is allowed in the full proposal and these new co-applicants are not affiliated to a research organisation listed above, these conditions will also be checked for this organisation/these organisations. The documents listed above as a requirement in the pre-proposal stage must then be submitted by email no less than 10 working days before the submission deadline for full proposals (meaning no later than 27 May 2026, 14:00:00 CET).
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	The available budget modules are listed below: *Personnel* - Personnel at a university in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, umc or a research organisation, as referred to in Article 1.1, first paragraph, subparagraphs c to h of the NWO Grant Rules 2024 salary costs can be claimed for the following positions: o Postdoc: at least 1 position, for at least 12 months, for at least 0.5 fte, according to UNL or NFU rates, a benchfee is available; o Non-scientific personnel (NWP): according to UNL or NFU rates; o Research leave: max. 5% of the grant amount, according to UNL or NFU rates. - Personnel of universities of applied sciences, TO2 institutes and other research organisations using the Government Tariff Manual (HOT), Table 2, under 2.2 'average total salary cost per salary scale', column 'Hourly rate productive hours, excluding VAT'; - Students: according to the usual internship fee or HOT rates, may be added to material costs *Material*: for project-specific material costs, up to 25% of the grant amount. Subsequently, up to 50% of the material budget can be used for work by third parties; *Knowledge utilisation*[18]: for activities that promote the use of knowledge from the research following the Impact Plan approach, mandatory 5-20% of the grant amount; *Project management*: up to 5% of the grant amount. Please note the following: - PhD positions cannot be applied for in this call, due to the maximum project duration of 3 years. - NWO funds project-related costs. Therefore overhead costs are not eligible for NWO funding.

[18] All activities applied for under this budget module must fit within the definition of "Knowledge Transfer Activities" used by the European Commission in the Framework for State Aid for Research, Development and Innovation (OJEU 2022, C 414).

	A more detailed explanation of the budget modules and eligible costs can be found on the funding page on the NWO website.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Once proposals are selected for funding, the consortia will be notified by the Joint Call Secretariat and subsequently the national granting process will be initiated by NWO.
Submission of other information at the national level	It is recommended to use the NWO budget template in the pre-proposal stage to confirm eligibility of budget items. For full proposals, it is mandatory to submit the NWO budget form for the funding requested at NWO at the time of the transnational deadline. Please submit it to era4health@nwo.nl. Do not hesitate to contact the national contact point in case of questions.
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Submission of financial and scientific reports at national level is required in accordance with the rules of NWO. Granted consortia will be informed in due time.
Further guidance	The NWO Grant Rules 2024 and the Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research are applicable to all applications for NWO funding. Any arrangements made regarding the grant from NWO, for instance in a Consortium Agreement, must comply with the NWO Grant Rules 2024 and the European legislation on state aid. As stipulated in the NWO Grant Rules, Article 3.2, paragraph 2, the project cannot start until the conditions set out in the grant award decision regarding the start of the project are met. Please note, these conditions will include a signed Consortium agreement by all partners in the transnational project. Under the Dutch General Administrative Law Act, any interested party has the right to lodge an objection to the decision taken by NWO within six weeks of the date of the decision letter. Further information about the objections procedure can be found on the NWO website: https://www.nwo.nl/en/lodging-an-objection. NWO will, if necessary, apply a one-off indexation of personnel costs when awarding the grant. The UNL/NFU/HOT rate at the time of the decision date applies and the date on which the rates take effect is used for this purpose.

Country	Türkiye
Funding organisation	TUBITAK
National contact person	Şükran Alpdemir sukran.alpdemir@tubitak.gov.tr
Funding commitment	600 000 Euros
Anticipated number of fundable proposals	2-3 projects
Maximum/ Minimum funding per grant awarded to a project partner	Up to 185 000 Euros per project, max. 100 000 Euros for public institutions and max. 185 000 Euros for private companies with 60% funding of the eligible costs for large companies and 75% funding of the eligible costs for SMEs (these amounts do not include extra payments, please refer to the related TUBITAK website for further information).
Eligibility of partners	For further information about application rules and procedures, please refer to the related TUBITAK website.
Eligibility of costs, types and their caps	For further information about application rules and procedures, please refer to the related TUBITAK webpage.
Submission of the proposal at the national level	Yes
Submission of other information at the national level	Yes
Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national level	Yes
Further guidance	Participants from Türkiye should also submit their proposals to TUBITAK electronically via (https://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/) for the pre-proposal phase. Only the PIs from successful projects that are listed for funding after the second stage of international evaluation are required to submit their full proposals. **All national applications must be completed via e-signature.**